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COMMENT OF
THE DAY

The Way Ahead

THE ratification of the Paris pacts rearming Western Germany and admitting her as a member of NATO has now been virtually completed. With the passage of the treaties through the French Senate yesterday the last obstacle has been cleared.

No legislative difficulties are expected in the three countries—Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg—which have still to complete the process of ratification. This is expected shortly and the suggestion is that German military groups will be formed by the Autumn and will be ready for integration with the armies of her Western neighbours early next year.

It is hard to judge true reaction in the West. The politicians and statesmen who have for more than five years striven tirelessly to nurture the ideal of Western unity may claim they have now created a solid front against Communism, that Europe is at last on the threshold of mobilisation and that their governments have achieved a "position of strength" from which they might profitably negotiate with the Russians.

BUT notice there is no excessive jubilation, no wild rejoicing in Paris, Washington and London, although undoubtedly there is profound relief that France has at last made her decision. The satisfaction and sense of achievement expressed by the statesmen is tempered by the realisation that though they have succeeded in planting their troublesome tree they may still never see the fruits of their labour.

The uneasiness that stems from the belief that ratification may be a new barrier to the solution of East-West problems has grown from a low murmur of protest in the last three months to something of a general clamour in Britain, Europe and even America. The question is whether Russia will pursue her threats to the West now that German rearmament is assured or whether she will partake in a new attempt to settle outstanding post-war issues.

Marshal Bulganin's statement on Saturday night welcoming President Eisenhower's views on Big Power talks suggested that Russia had accepted ratification as a virtual fait accompli and may yet agree to new negotiations in spite of it. The comparatively mild and even reasonable comment by Tass yesterday on the French Senate vote reinforces the impression that Kremlin policy has undergone another change in the last few days which augurs well for the future. Soviet tactics, however, may prove to be deceptive and it is necessary for the Big Three to proceed cautiously, neither exploiting the advantage they have gained by ratification, nor succumbing to precipitate action in their dealings with Russia.

THE essential consideration in any new attempt at East-West negotiations is whether there is good prospect of tangible success. Another session of fruitless wrangling between the big powers can only exacerbate present tension.

A somewhat anxious period of sparring therefore begins between London, Washington and Moscow. If the West plays its cards as adroitly as it has in the last five months since the London and Paris agreements first emerged from the conferences of the Brussels Powers, there is reason to hope that its efforts will be rewarded with success—ultimately. Certainly it would be foolish to hope for any early agreement.

Election
Date, New
Guessing
Pastime

London, Mar. 27. The political topic now threatening to oust even Sir Winston Churchill's expected retirement from first place is whether the general election will be held in May, June or October.

Two dates are strongly tipped—May 23 as the most likely, and October 23 as a good alternative. A third, though not so greatly favoured possibility, is June 16.

It seems generally accepted that whichever is chosen, Sir Anthony Eden, the 57-year-old Foreign Secretary, will have succeeded Sir Winston Churchill as Prime Minister and will lead the Conservative Party in the election campaign.

EFFECT ON ECONOMY
Advocates of a May election claim the government is being advised by the banks, the City of London and Treasury experts that the election should take place as soon as possible after Sir Anthony Eden's succession.

Chief argument advanced by the early election advocates is that a long period of public election fever and uncertainty would react unfavourably on Britain's business and commercial life and the nation's whole economy.

Mr R. A. Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is said to favour a May contest. Political sources add it is only because that some of the government's supporters should also have in mind the present division and squabbles of the Labour opposition, now climaxed by a move for the expulsion of Mr Aneurin Bevan, rebellious left-winger.

But the government has let it be known this will not be the decisive factor in its choice of date.

THE POINTERS
Full-scale county council elections to be held throughout England and Wales at an early moment will influence the government in settling the timing.

The contests, beginning Thursday week, will be regarded as a major "rehearsal" for a national parliamentary poll, and should provide valuable guidance on how the government's stock now stands in the country after 3½ years in office.

Reuter.

ATOMIC AA
WEAPON

Washington, Mar. 27. An atomic anti-aircraft weapon is to be tested during the current series of nuclear explosions in the Nevada desert, the American Atomic Energy Commission announced here today.

A commission communiqué said the weapon would explode several miles up in the air. The communiqué said the anti-aircraft weapons would considerably strengthen the United States air defence system. They would help fighter squadrons in their task of destroying any enemy bombers before they reached American cities and strategic objectives, the communiqué added.

France-Press.

Republicans Organise
A Splinter Group

Chicago, Mar. 27. A group of Conservative Republicans announced today the start of a "nation-wide drive to wrest control of the Republican Party from New Dealers and Internationalists." The group, the Abraham Lincoln National Republican Club, called the drive "the first major break in Republican ranks between Eisenhower Liberals and the so-called Conservative 'Isolationist' wing of the Party." Captain Edgar Bundy, President of the club, said: "The whole Republican electorate

STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN PAKISTAN
Gov-Gen. Assumes
New Powers
SEEKING TO RESOLVE
POLITICAL CRISIS

Karachi, Mar. 27. The Governor-General of Pakistan, Mr Ghulam Mohammed, tonight declared a state of emergency and assumed sweeping powers for himself for the second time in six months. His aim was to cut through Pakistan's confused political and legal crisis and give the 7-year-old nation its first constitution.

It was learned that he will convene a constitutional convention within the next 30 days to ratify a draft constitution the government has already prepared. New general elections will follow adoption of the constitution within 18 months.

Today's action follows many months of crisis during which regional and political factions have questioned the legality of the government itself.

Mr Ghulam Mohammed recently survived a court challenge to his action last October and is dissolving the Constituent Assembly and declaring a state of emergency. Last Monday, the Pakistan Federal Court upheld his right to do this, reversing the decision of a lower court.

Today he assumed the power to amalgamate West Pakistan provinces into one unit and all the authority necessary for the framing of a new constitution.

Last October 24, Mr Ghulam Mohammed, faced with a serious political crisis, dissolved the Pakistan Constituent Assembly on the grounds that it had lost the confidence of the people, set up a caretaker government and declared a state of emergency in the Dominion.

Last Monday's court decision threw the Pakistan political situation picture into confusion for the Federal Court ruled that a provincial court did not have certain powers because the Constituent Assembly act giving it these powers did not have the Governor-General's signature. But this ruling also invalidated all Assembly laws passed without the Governor-General's signature—46 in seven years.

35 MADE VALID

Today Mr Mohammed made valid 35 of these laws. But he did not return to the courts the power to issue prerogative writs.

It was by issuing such a writ that the Sindh provincial court invalidated his dissolution of the Assembly. This was the decision reversed by the Federal Court last Monday.

The Governor-General's proclamation came late tonight after the Cabinet had concluded seven days of meetings to overcome the confusion that has prevailed since last Monday's court decision.

Last Monday lower courts, because the Federal Court said they did not have certain power they had been acting upon, immediately released several prisoners, including seven senior military officers and a newspaper editor convicted in 1953

of plotting to overthrow the government and set up a military Communist state. The government took emergency measures to return them to prison. Their habeas corpus petitions for release were due to be heard in the Lahore High Court tomorrow.

With tonight's ordinance the Governor-General has full authority to rectify this situation and to take immediate steps to implement the government's plans for a new constitution, the draft of which has already been prepared.

NO CONSTITUTION
Pakistan has been without a written constitution since its establishment as a separate dominion with India, the other predominantly Hindu part of the subcontinent in August, 1947.

The Constituent Assembly, elected to promulgate a constitution, has in fact been functioning as a legislature.

After the death of Liaquat Ali Khan, the country's first Prime Minister, his Muslim League Party broke up into quarrelling factions.

This and the regionalism in this country, geographically divided into two separated parts, brought on political instability that by last year made the government impotent to deal with the economic and political circumstances. Famine and civil disorder threatened in some areas.

The climax came when representatives from Bengal, which contains more than the country's population, rushed through the Assembly a bill divesting the Governor-General of many powers and repealing a disqualification act under which some of them faced prosecution. There was talk of secession by Bengal province.

INVALIDATION RULING

On October 24, the Governor-General dissolved the Assembly and ordered the Prime Minister, Mr Mohammed Ali, to form a National Government to run the country's administration.

Then a Sindh provincial court ruled this move invalid and said the members of the new National Cabinet had no right to hold office.

This was reversed last Monday by the Federal Court, which decided that the Sindh court had no power to issue a writ deciding on the validity of the Governor-General's action.

The Pakistan government announced tonight that four provinces and ten princely states of West Pakistan will be merged into a single administrative and political unit before the end of May.

West Pakistan is separated by 1,000 miles of Indian territory from East Pakistan (capital: Dacca).

Karachi is the federal capital. The new province of West Pakistan will be composed of 50 districts grouped into 11 divisions.

"Don't Leave
Party"
Urges Bevan

Doncaster, Mar. 27. Mr Aneurin Bevan today made his first public appearance since his expulsion from the Parliamentary Labour Party and urged his supporters not to quit the organisation in sympathy.

He told a miners' union meeting that some Socialists had written to him saying they proposed to leave the Party.

"I hope they will not do any such thing," Mr Bevan said.

"Our movement is very much bigger than any individual and I urge them to remain and work inside the Labour movement, do all they can in local elections and work in the general election—which cannot be far off—for the return of the Labour government."

NOT WEAKNESS

He made some oblique references to the present Labour Party dispute, commenting: "Do not for one moment imagine that this is a sign of weakness. It is a sign of life and vitality."

"All that is needed is that the discussions shall be allowed to go on in a spirit of toleration without personal recrimination."

Mr Bevan is due to appear before a Labour Party tribunal on Tuesday which will demand his resignation. If he does not give it, he faces possible expulsion from the Party itself.

"I am not full of self pity at all about the present situation," he said. "On the contrary, I know that these phases must be got through if the Labour movement is to win through to a new period of vitality and progress."

Reuter.

Independence
Plea

Vienna, Mar. 27.

Austrian Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schanz today called upon the Big Three Western Powers to ensure the economic as well as political independence of Austria.

He told the annual conference of the Socialist Party that a four-power meeting of Austria would be "opportune."

He urged the United States, Britain and France to keep their promise to see to it that in any Austrian State Treaty they signed connected German property was turned over to Austria.

London Still
Paperless

London, Mar. 27. The presses of Fleet Street were silent again tonight as the strike of 700 electricians and maintenance engineers which has halted Britain's national newspapers, moved towards its fourth day with no settlement in sight. No newspaper has been printed in London since the two unions withdrew their labour early last Friday to enforce claims for a higher pay rise than that offered to printing trade unions.

VIETNAM CRISIS

Warlords
Discuss
Offer

Saigon, Mar. 27.

Delegates of South Vietnam's warlords drove to Tay Ninh, 55 miles north-west of Saigon, tonight to discuss with Pham Cong Tac, 66-year-old "Pope" of the powerful Cao Dai sect, whether to accept Premier Ngo Dinh Diem's offer of power in a reshuffled cabinet.

As the scene of the struggle for power shifted to the cathedral city, whose garish temples are festooned with dragon-tail finials in the capital, the warlords discussed the offer.

But Saigon was still packed with Vietnamese national forces and men of the three private armies challenging the Roman Catholic Premier following the expiry yesterday of a five-day ultimatum from the warlords.

Pham Cong Tac controls the biggest of the three private armies who three weeks ago sank their differences and formed a "united national front" demanding government reform and immediate elections to a National Assembly.

Eight ministers representing the Cao Dai, Hoa Hao and Binh Xuyen private armies in the Diem Cabinet decided to resign today, claiming they were not given enough power.

SURPRISE OFFER

But at a luncheon Cabinet meeting, Diem offered to replace his personal friends in the government with ministers of private armies and other nationalist groups in an attempt to end the dangerous crisis.

His offer came as a surprise. Four of the ministers who did try to resign did not have their resignations accepted. They, too, went to confer with Pham Cong Tac.

After a night of tension in Saigon, Mr Diem declared he wanted to see the leaders of the private armies, to ask them whom they wanted in the government and what programme they had in mind.

Reuter.

CYCLONE HITS
QUEENSLAND

Brisbane, Mar. 27.

A tropical cyclone battered the southern Queensland coast tonight for the second time in less than a month with winds up to 70 miles an hour.

Torrential rains—46 inches in five hours—threatened floods here and in New South Wales to the south.

The cyclone, moving southwards, ripped its way through small towns and plantations. At Yandina, 70 miles north of here, two churches were wrecked, eight houses and their roofs blown off and a railway wagon was lifted off the rails.

Reuter.

Nehru For India

Paris, Mar. 27.

Indian Premier Jawaharlal Nehru will visit the Soviet Union in the early part of June, Soviet Tass News Agency reported tonight.

Dozen
Convicts
Rebel

HOLD GUARDS
AS HOSTAGES

New York, Mar. 27.

Twelve prisoners in the Nebraska Penitentiary revolted today, seized two guards as hostages and barricaded themselves in the prison's three-storey security building.

Governor Victor Anderson moved in personally to direct the effort to free the two guards. The guards were held on the third floor of the building, which is used to house prisoners who violate penitentiary rules.

The prisoners, some of them armed, include four men who were placed in the security building for attempted escape recently.

The guards told prison officials in an inter-prison telephone conversation that they had not been harmed.

ARMED WITH KNIVES

Governor Anderson feared the guards might be hurt if he authorised the use of tear gas or firearms to rout the prisoners. He said demands were expected to be received from the prisoners.

The guards confirmed in the telephone conversation that the inmates were armed with knives. Governor Anderson emphasised: "We've taken every precaution possible, but we won't make any hasty decisions."

He ordered "every available State patrolman in the immediate area" to the prison. The governor said any complaint the inmates had "will be given full hearing but naturally we cannot compromise."

There is only one door to the security building and that is covered by guards and patrolmen, standing heavily armed on the prison wall—United Press.

Terrorist Group
Apprehended

Bone, Algeria, Mar. 27.

A highly organised and fanatical terrorist movement all set for action was uncovered by the Algerian police and numerous arrests were made, it was learned here today.

The police were alerted some days ago when considerable quantities of bombs and explosives were discovered in the neighbourhood of Bone in Northeast Algeria.

Their investigations led to the discovery of a complex organisation whose members had all sworn to "fight to the death." Their first objective was to kill all plainclothes police officers.

France-Press.

Chasing Up
Smuggling Ring

Manila, Mar. 28.

Philippine consular officials at Hongkong have been requested to follow up suspect foreign links to smuggling opium and luxury articles uncovered by Customs and Secret Service agents here last Saturday.

The Manila Port Security Division has sent the Philippine suspected of representing the names of firms and persons suspected of representing the Hongkong end of the smuggling syndicate.

France-Press.

Let the Future Scholar
have a Start Now!



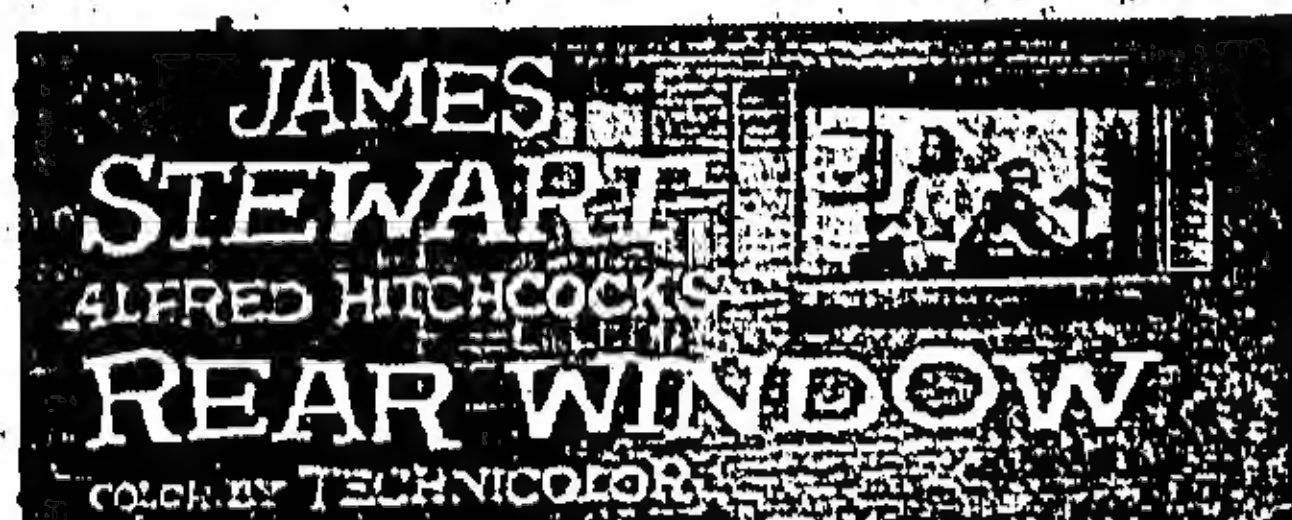
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HONG KONG & KOWLOON

KING'S PRINCESS EMPIRE

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m. AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m. AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.

4 SHOWS TO-DAY

It's the talk of the town!

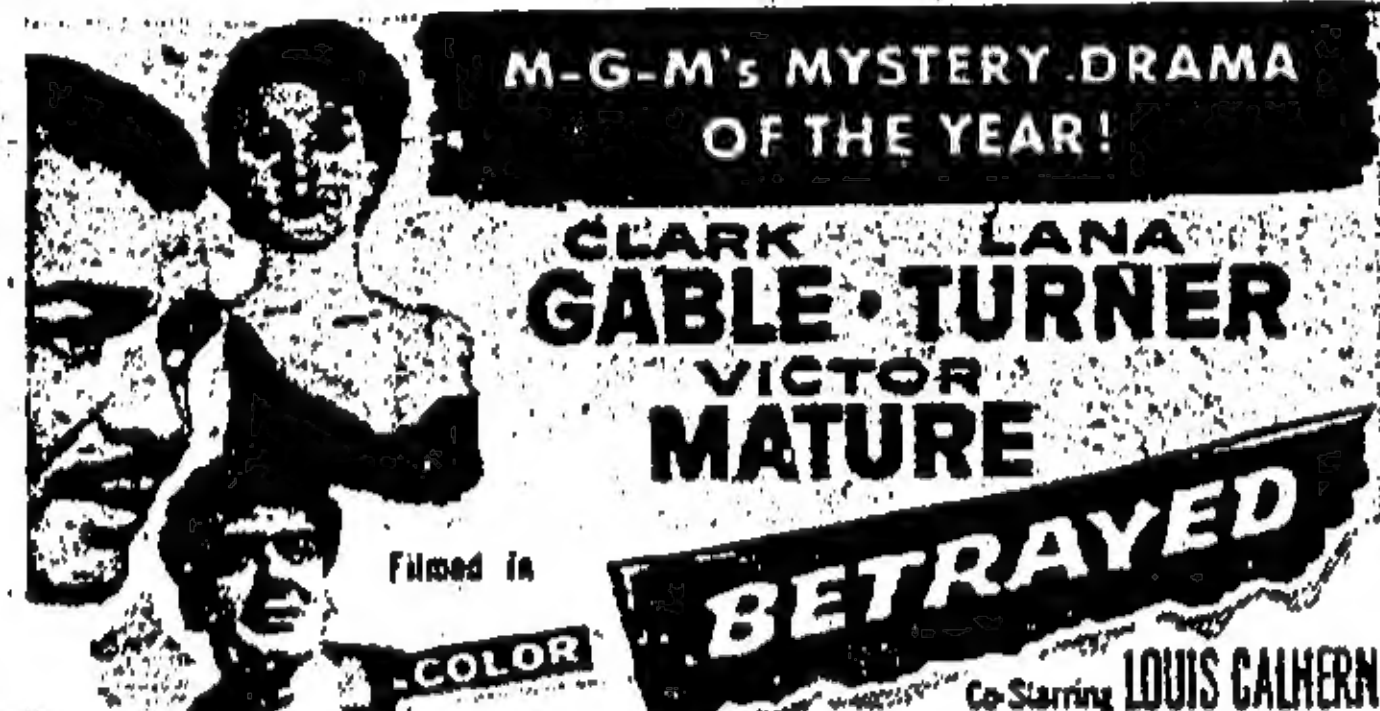


JAMES STEWART ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S REAR WINDOW COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR GRACE KELLY WENDELL COREY THELMA RITTER

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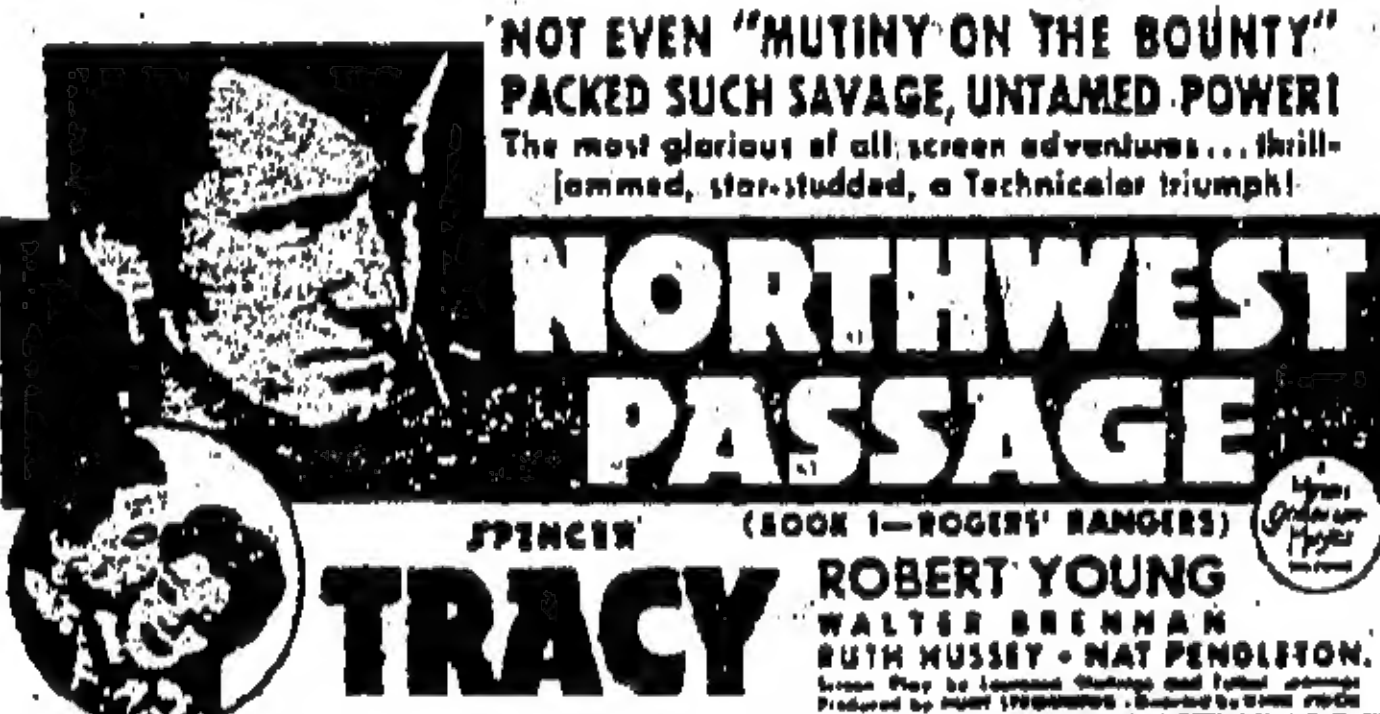
TO-DAY 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 and 9.40 p.m.



The Secret Three Meet... One is the betrayer and two the betrayed!

M-G-M's MYSTERY DRAMA OF THE YEAR! CLARK GABLE LANA TURNER VICTOR MATURE BETRAYED Co-Starring LOUIS CALHORN

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ADMISSION: \$4 and \$2.70. Open to the Public. Booking at Fincher's Sports Shop and the Kowloon Cricket Club

STRIKE THREAT IN FRANCE**As The Assembly Prepares For Tax Debate POUJADE RALLYING HIS FORCES**

Paris, Mar. 27. The French National Assembly will debate tomorrow a Government proposal for a "taxpayer's charter" while M. Pierre Poujade has called a shopkeepers strike for tomorrow against present tax laws.

M. Poujade, leader of the new militant anti-tax movement among small shopkeepers and artisans, says he has called his shop strike for tomorrow to coincide with the Assembly debate.

But his critics say he has called it tomorrow because most French tradesmen shut up shop on Monday anyway, and he fears a trial of strength with the Government at this point.

STREET THUNDER. But certainly the Government proposal for the new tax laws are a bid to steal M. Poujade's thunder, and a recognition of this busy young bookseller with the booming voice as a threat to the authority of the State.

The main points in the charter are the abolition of taxes for many small businesses and the repeal of a law passed last year under which heavy fines and prison sentences can be imposed on people who try to stop officials from collecting taxes.

M. Poujade's movement, the Union for the Defence of Shopkeepers and Artisans, demanded in a statement yesterday that the Government should wipe out all penalties for obstructing tax collectors. The Government's bill contains no reference to the Finance Ministry's flying squad of special inspectors who pounce on tax dodgers. These are a main target of the Poujadist movement, which wants them eliminated.

The bill, which was approved by the Assembly's Finance Committee last week by 21 votes to 18, also asks for an extension until the end of April of the special powers over France's economy and finance granted to the last Premier, M. Pierre Mendes-France. The vote on the bill is expected on Tuesday night.

Most Paris shopkeepers have announced their trade organisations that they will ignore M. Poujade's strike call. But thousands of small businessmen see M. Poujade as the only man fighting for their interests against a creaking taxation system.

ANTI-SEMITIC. To Socialist Labour leaders, M. Poujade is an ineffectual Fascist, even to his reported anti-Semitic leanings.

His group has avoided enlisting the aid of Jewish shopkeepers, and thinly veiled anti-Semitism has been reported in some of his attacks on ex-Premier Mendes-France.—Reuter.

'Detectives' Are Probing the mildewed cars riddle**SHIP DEVICE FOR EXPORTS**

A SPECIALLY designed "mechanical detective" has been evolved by British engineers to watch our export cars during their long sea voyage to the Australian market.

This "detective" has been brought in to help solve a mystery which has been baffling some car manufacturers for years.

TEMPERATURE READINGS

In spite of the fact that Britain's post-war ships are equipped with modern air-conditioning apparatus some cars have been arriving in Australia suffering from mould and mildew.

To throw light on the conditions in the holds of ships the "mechanical detective" was built to record temperatures and humidities at intervals throughout a voyage from the packing shop to the point of delivery.

It consists of an air and light tight container, with a thermometer and hygrometer for temperature and humidity readings.

Their dials have been photographed every hour on



The Queen, herself the mother of two children, leaves with the Vicar, the Reverend C.W.F. Bennett, after attending the 'Mothering Sunday' service at the Church of the Holy Cross in Wakefield, Sussex. For the service, the Queen wore a simple Navy coat trimmed with a fur collar, and a dark red hat.—Reuterphoto.

Queen Attends Church Service**QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA**

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★ NEXT CHANGE ★



ANNA NEAGLE-ERROL FLYNN DAVID FARRAR

Color by Technicolor

ANTHONY HANSON "PETER SHERES" HERBERT WILCOX

A VICTORY PICTURE PRODUCTION

Chinese Dual Nationality Problem

Djakarta, Mar. 27. Indonesian talks on the double nationality of more than 1,000,000 Chinese residents of Indonesia were continued yesterday, when Chinese Ambassador Huang Chen conferred with Sukarno Wirjopratomo, head of the Asian Pacific Division of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry.

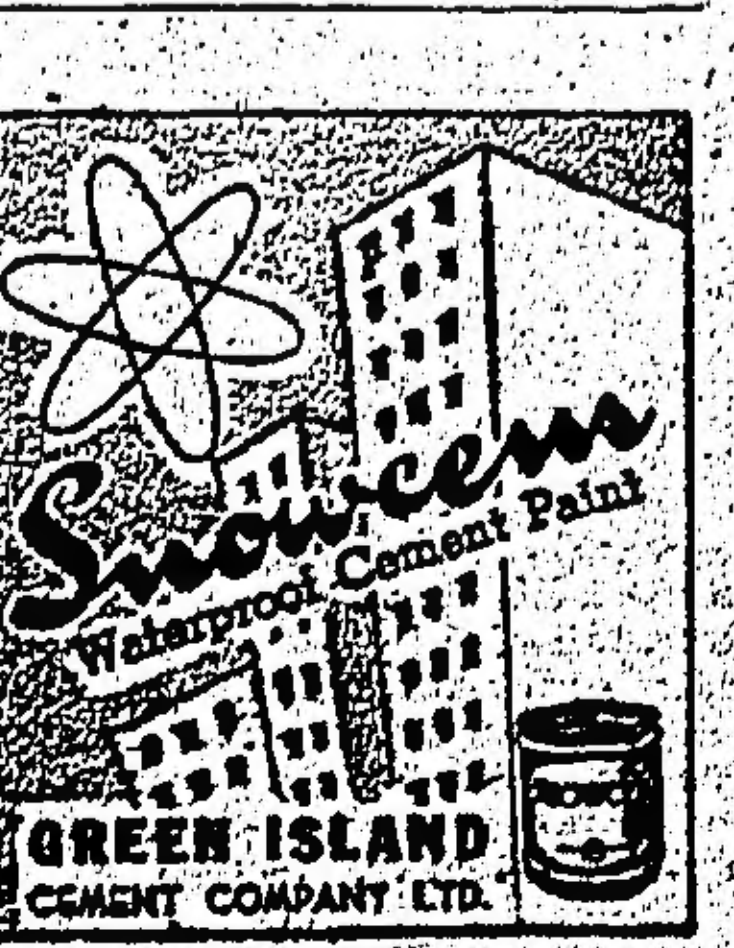
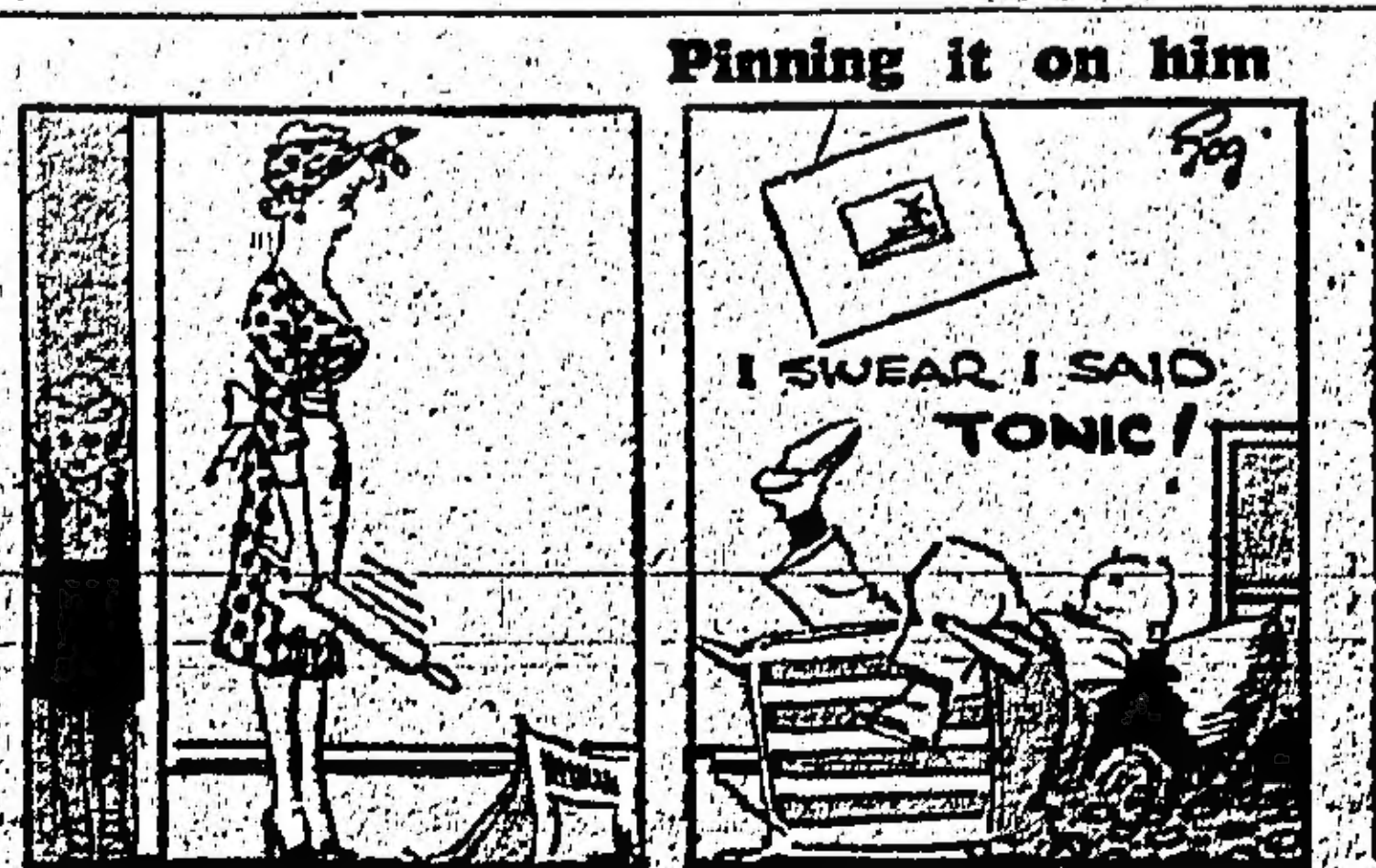
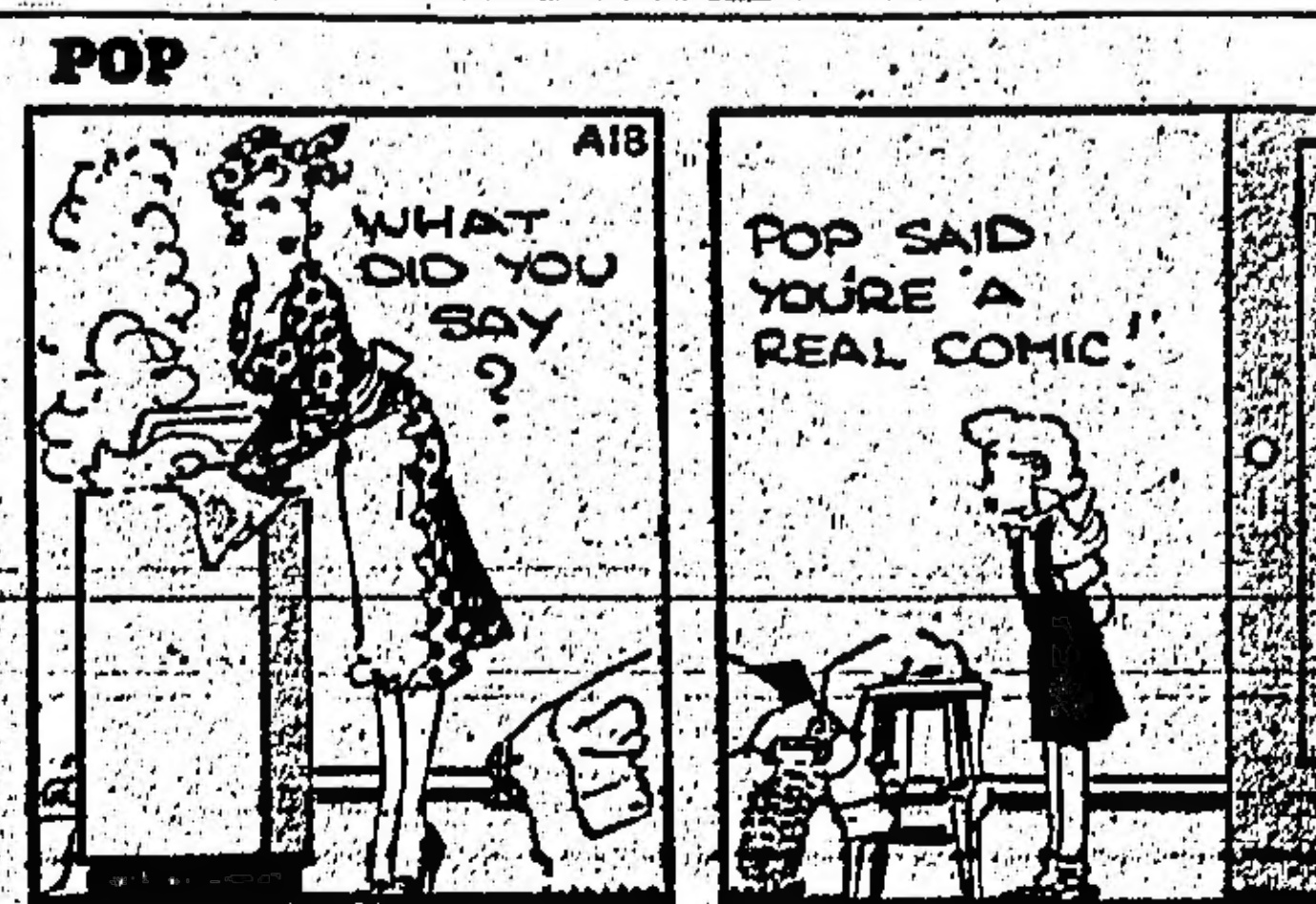
The talks were a continuation of negotiations, which began in Peking. Government circles here hoped that the double citizenship question would be settled before the opening of the Afro-Asian Conference scheduled for April 18 at Bandung.—France-Press.

MAJESTIC

FIRST SHOWING IN KOWLOON at 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.



NEXT CHANGE Sterling HAYDEN in "ARROW IN THE DUST" Color By Technicolor



ADENAUER APPLAUDS FRENCH

RATIFICATION

Close Co-operation Now Possible Between The Two Countries



DR. ADENAUER

Bonn, Mar. 27.

Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, today applauded French approval of the Paris treaties as an "important step towards the establishment of peace in Europe."

Close Franco-German co-operation in an atmosphere of mutual confidence could now begin, he told reporters.

Ratification news brought relief to Government circles here.

ARDUOUS EFFORT

They regard it as the result of five years of arduous effort by Dr. Adenauer to end the ten-year-old Allied occupation and admit West Germany to the Western Alliance.

From now on her foreign policy will concentrate on solving the "divided" Germany problem. Dr. Adenauer has maintained that treaty ratification would not close the door to full-scale East-West talks on German unity, but, promote them.

Dr. Adenauer wants to proclaim the date on which West Germany acquires her sovereignty as a national holiday. The

political parties would prefer the rearmament treaties and the much disputed Saar agreement to enter into force on a different day.

Diplomatic sources say M. Antoine Pinay, the French Foreign Minister, will meet Dr. Adenauer in Germany on April 17 or 18 to discuss the immediate effects of ratification of the treaties.

Other subjects will be Franco-German economic co-operation and the date for the Saar plebiscite to determine a final peace treaty solution for the coal and iron producing territory.

Dr. Adenauer wants implementation of the rearmament pact to precede a big power conference, because military legislation will certainly provoke Social Democratic opposition and may entail constitutional amendments.

Herr Erich Ollenhauer, opposition Social Democratic Chairman, said his party would continue to press for unification without rearmament.—Reuter.

US GRATIFICATION

In Washington, the satisfaction which American statesmen feel at the ratification is considerably greater than appears in the soberly worded communiques issued by the State Department today.

For the United States, the ratification represents the crow-

ning achievement of the European policy which it embarked upon with the launching of the Marshall Plan in 1948, and followed up with the Atlantic Alliance.

America has made it clear that this policy must lead on to the reinforcement of Western unity, with Germany playing a full part in all Europe's undertakings.

The goal has not yet been reached since the Paris Agreements have still to be ratified in several countries and it will be years before the Atlantic Alliance can count on an effective German army.

But with the French ratification, Washington considers that a milestone has been reached. Observers here believe that American foreign policy will continue to be based on support for Western European unity and the Atlantic Alliance, and that the "drastic revision" which Secretary of State John Foster Dulles warned might be necessary in the event of Europe remaining divided will not now take place.

GREAT IMPORTANCE

Great importance is attached to the promises of Franco-German reconciliation which the Paris agreements seem to foreshadow.

It has been evident for some time that the United States considered European unity as an essential preliminary to an understanding with Russia. From this point of view, the ratification is seen by Washington as a major check to Soviet diplomacy, and puts the Western Allies in the "position of strength" considered as a precondition for any negotiations with the Soviet Union.

This theory appears to be confirmed by the Soviet Premier Marshal Nikolai Bulganin on Saturday who said, in a statement to the Press, that Russia would consider taking part in the "exploratory conversations" mentioned on Wednesday last by President Eisenhower.—France-Press.

Hatoyama To Reply On A-Bomb Stockpiling

Tokyo, Mar. 27. The newspaper Yomiuri said today Premier Ichiro Hatoyama is preparing an official reply to questions in the Diet on United States stockpiling of atom bombs in Japan.

The newspaper said the Government decision stemmed from charges by Communist Diet member Mr. Kanichi Kawakami that Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama's answers are "vague."

Mr. Kawakami questioned Mr. Hatoyama on Saturday about the Prime Minister's statements recently before a Press conference with foreign correspondents that Japan would consent to stockpiling atom bombs here if the motive was to assure maintenance of peace.

Mr. Kawakami demanded a straightforward answer from Mr. Hatoyama at Saturday's House budget committee session whether he favoured making Japan a base for atom bombs for the United States.

"I cannot now say whether I will permit or not permit the United States to stockpile atom bombs in Japan," Mr. Hatoyama replied. "I have no alternative than to consider the question when a request is actually made by the United States."—United Press.

At one time she was thought to be the second oldest living person in the world. Sophia (Granny) van der Merwe claimed to be 124 years old.—China Mail Special.

They'll sail the world—Arab style

London, Mar. 27. Two young men are quitting their homes in Kensington to sail a 34-ton Arab dhow round the world, using the oldest aids to navigation.

They will leave Allen during the moonless season, and not come back until a late autumn, says a local news agency. The dhow, a sleek, fast sailing ship, is the last of its kind in the world.

The stone will be mounted in a stick floating in water. Arab seamen sailed their ocean for centuries with the same instruments. But there is no record of a dhow crossing the Pacific to America—halfway stage of the voyage—by the ancient method. Twenty-six-year-old Donald Currie, one of the dhow masters, spent weeks at the British Museum studying seamanship, Arab style. He said last night: "The vessel will be provisioned with rice, dates, and salted meat."

Currie's companion will be Tim Curtis, who served in the Australian Merchant Navy.

Bronze Medal Of Fleming



Mr. Frank Kovaks, who won the 1953 Bronze Medal for Sculpture at the Paris Salon, has just completed his bronze medallion of Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Sir Alexander and Lady Fleming were with the sculptor when he completed the plaster cast and had asked him to bring the medal along for them to see when it was completed. But two days later came Sir Alexander's tragic death. He never saw the finished work. Mr. Kovaks had five sittings with Sir Alexander and both he and Lady Fleming were pleased with the result. They were looking forward to seeing it before leaving on their projected holiday. Experts consider that this medallion is one of Mr. Kovaks' best works. Picture shows: Mr. Frank Kovaks with his bronze medallion of Sir Alexander Fleming.—Express Photo.

Gaza Incident Commission Blames The Egyptians

Tel-Aviv, Mar. 27. The Egypt-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission today condemned Egypt for last week's attack on the Israeli settlement of Patish by infiltrators from the Gaza strip.

The attackers threw hand-grenades into a crowd attending a wedding celebration, killing one woman and wounding 18 persons, including six women, three children and an infant in arms.

Meeting here in an urgent session, the Mixed Armistice Commission ruled that the attack, perpetrated on March 24 by two armed men from the Egyptian-held Gaza strip was "a

brutal and murderous act of aggression" and noted "with grave concern the aggravation of the serious situation of the Israeli-Egyptian border."

Later, an Israeli army spokesman announced tonight that one Egyptian soldier was wounded by Israeli fire in a new Gaza strip border incident.

He said the Egyptian soldier was wounded when an Israeli patrol opened fire on four Egyptian soldiers who had penetrated into Israeli territory from the Gaza strip.

JOURNALISTS' APPEAL

Meanwhile, the Israeli Journalists' Association called upon all Arab journalists' organisations to help bring about peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

The appeal was made in the form of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Israeli Journalists.—France-Press.

GROW OLD AND GET A PENSION OVERNIGHT

Singapore, Mar. 27. From Brunel, the small sultanate in Borneo, have come reports of a strange illness that afflicts large numbers of the population—"contagious senility."

Symptoms are sudden loss of muscular control, loss of memory and general debility, usually afflicting the middle-aged. In some cases, the victims appear to age 20 years overnight.

And the cause? Old age pensions!

Says the columnist Cynicus, writing in the Straits Times, "Brunel is to introduce old age pensions at the end of this month, thanks to its oil wells."

NO CERTIFICATES

"As so many of the inhabitants have no birth certificates, and simply do not know when they were born, compilation of the old age register presents unusual difficulty. In case of real doubt a medical examination decides the point. Hence the wave of contagious senility."

"The doctors became so over-worked that the Government hospital will no longer accept anyone for examination without a written statement from a responsible person stating that there is reason to believe that the applicant is of pensionable age."

The doctors found that only one in 20 was anywhere near the age of 60, and that many quite obviously were under 40.—France-Press.

Man Plants More Than 6 Million Trees

Johannesburg, Mar. 27. Mr. Otto Brandmuller, South Africa's leading arboriculturist, has planted more than 6,000,000 trees since 1893.

Last week, he celebrated his 90th birthday by holding a party round a California Redwood tree. He planted it from seed on his 86th birthday. It is at present only four feet high, but the Redwood is considered to be the biggest tree in the world, growing to a height of 200 feet, and having a life span of some 3,000 years. Mr. Brandmuller intends to be buried under this tree.

BEAUTY SPOTS

The forests he has planted are among the leading "beauty spots" in South Africa. At Macquarie on the Vaal River, there are 4,000,000 oak trees. A herd of Scottish spotted deer roams in this sanctuary.

Mr. Brandmuller started the herd by giving the Pretoria Zoo 100 bags of acorns in exchange for a buck and a doe.

Mr. Brandmuller was pensioned in 1936, after 44 years of work, but even in his "retirement" he has covered 400 acres with trees of 100 varieties, and at 90 he is still indefatigably planting trees.—France-Press.

STRIKE APPEAL IN CASABLANCA

Casablanca, Mar. 27. Appeals to the workers to strike over the walls of a house in the new Arab quarter of Casablanca today.

The strike was called for March 30—the anniversary of the signing of the protectorate treaty with France in 1912. A similar appeal last year resulted in a successful work stoppage.—France-Press.

Snake Killed In Second Attempt

Melbourne, Mar. 27. Twelve-year-old Janice Blackwell was bitten five times on the foot and leg by a snake while playing on a garden lawn with other children.

Mr. A. B. Lyons, who killed the snake identified it as one he tried to kill two years ago. The snake still bore scars of the wounds Mr. Lyons had inflicted on it—China Mail Special.

ECAFE States Willing To Co-operate

Tokyo, Mar. 28. At the opening of the 11th plenary session this morning, Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Executive Secretary of ECAFE, declared that there was ample evidence that countries belonging to the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East are willing to co-operate.

He pointed out that one of the paramount objectives of the Commission is to foster regional co-operation.

Fortunately, he added, there is ample evidence that the countries are willing to co-operate in a number of ways and also have indicated the direction in which such co-operation is possible.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Such regional co-operation among groups of countries having common problems and similar interests will tend to pave the way for more extensive and co-ordinated activity in the field of planning, he stated.

Co-ordination of development plans among the countries of the region will naturally result in avoiding expensive use of resources and consequent difficulties in marketing.

Dr. Lokanathan went on, "It must, of course, be clearly recognised that the governments themselves would have to take the responsibility, but the Commission could, at least, help in providing information and analysis as the basis for inter-governmental actions."

As an example of further opportunities for consultation in planning and trade, he said, the survey of 1954 revealed that there is a need for a close understanding among the producing and consuming countries with regard to trade in rice and also for co-ordination of development plans so as to ensure the best possible use of the available factors of production.

GREATEST CHALLENGE

Dr. Lokanathan said the economic problems of Asia provide the greatest challenge not only for Asian countries but for the entire world today.

He stated it was also fitting that the session should meet in Japan which, by her geographic position and economic development, has a special contribution to make to the potential of the Asian region.—France-Press.

CLIMBERS ESTABLISH BASE CAMP

Katmandu, Mar. 27. A four-man Merseyside (Liverpool) mountaineering group have established their base camp for an attack on 23,550-foot high Himalaya mountain, Melungtse.

The party reached Boding village, 10,000 feet up in the Melungtse mountain range northeast of here on March 23, according to a message received today.

The climbers, aided by three sherpas and 50 porters, followed the successful 1953 British Everest expedition route. They will spend two months in attempts on unclimbed peaks.

GREGORY'S PARTY

Gregory's party includes C. Booth Dennis Davis, Dr. Peter Boulton and Edward Countenay.

Another party, the Kenya Himalaya expedition, headed by John Howard and A. S. Firming, have culled Tokyo for advice on the Japanese Alpine Club's intentions to climb 26,658-foot Mount Manaslu, for which Nepal has given permission.

The Japanese have not replied to reports that their expedition has been cancelled. If they come to Nepal, the Kenya climbers will try the neighbouring 26,800-foot Himalaya peak instead.—Reuter.

JULES VERNE COMMEMORATED

Nantes, Mar. 27. Jules Verne, the Frenchman who wrote the classic scientific thriller forecasting the advent of submarines, the bathysphere, helicopters and space travel, was commemorated today on the 50th anniversary of his death in his native town of Nantes.

Among Verne's best known books were "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," "Round the World in 80 Days," "Michel Strogoff" and "Five Weeks in a Balloon."—France-Press.

US Produces Most Tinned Food Products

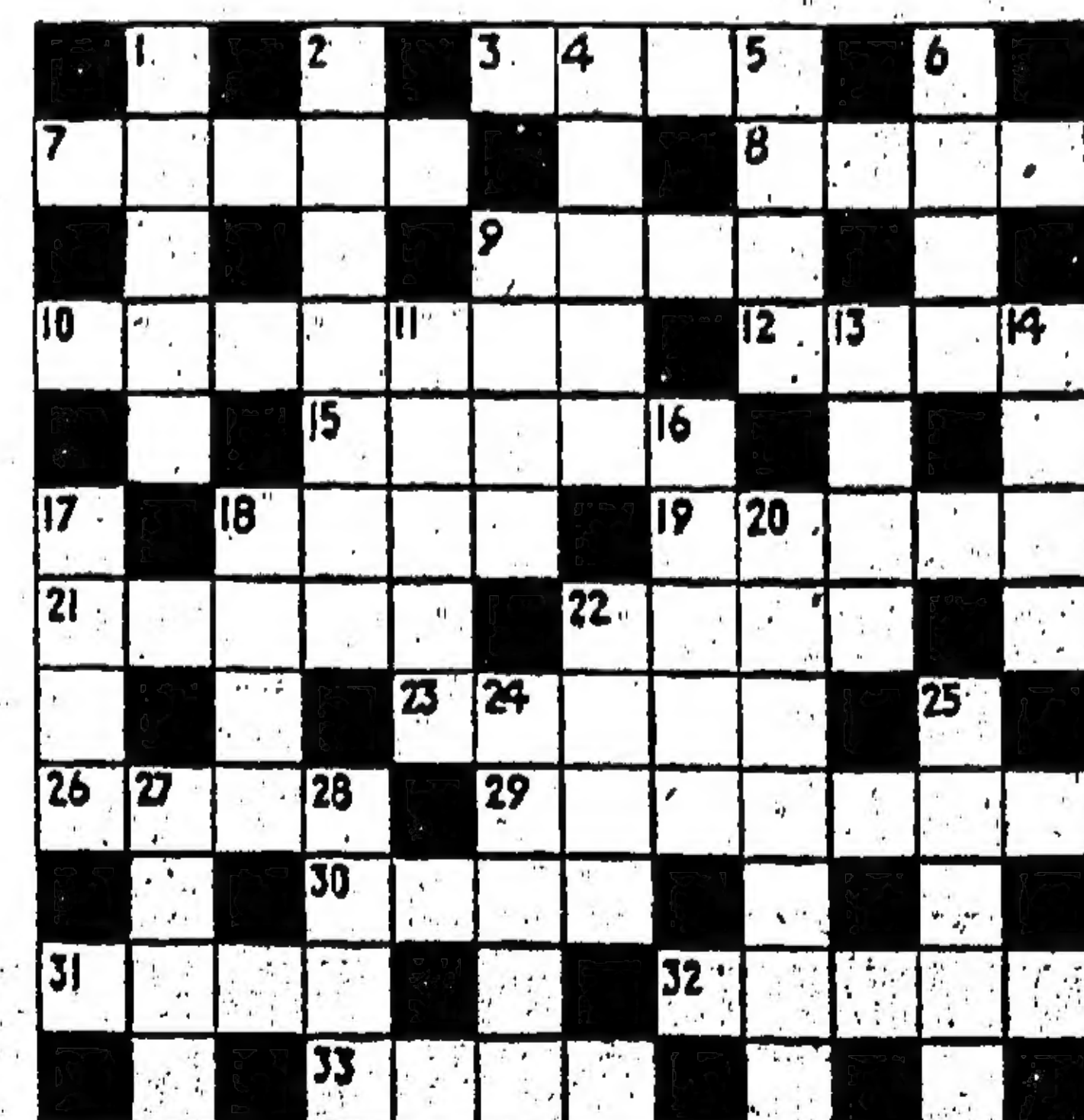
London, Mar. 27. The United States produces about two-thirds of the world's canned food products with Great Britain topping the first of imports of tinned foods, it was disclosed here today.

A report of the Commonwealth Economic Committee said that while Britain remained by far the biggest importer with 30 per cent of the world's imports, she only consumed 30 to 40 lbs per person annually, compared with 120 lbs in the United States.

Total production of tinned foods has doubled in volume since 1938.

The main tinned products are vegetables, meat and fruit juice, in that order.—France-Press.

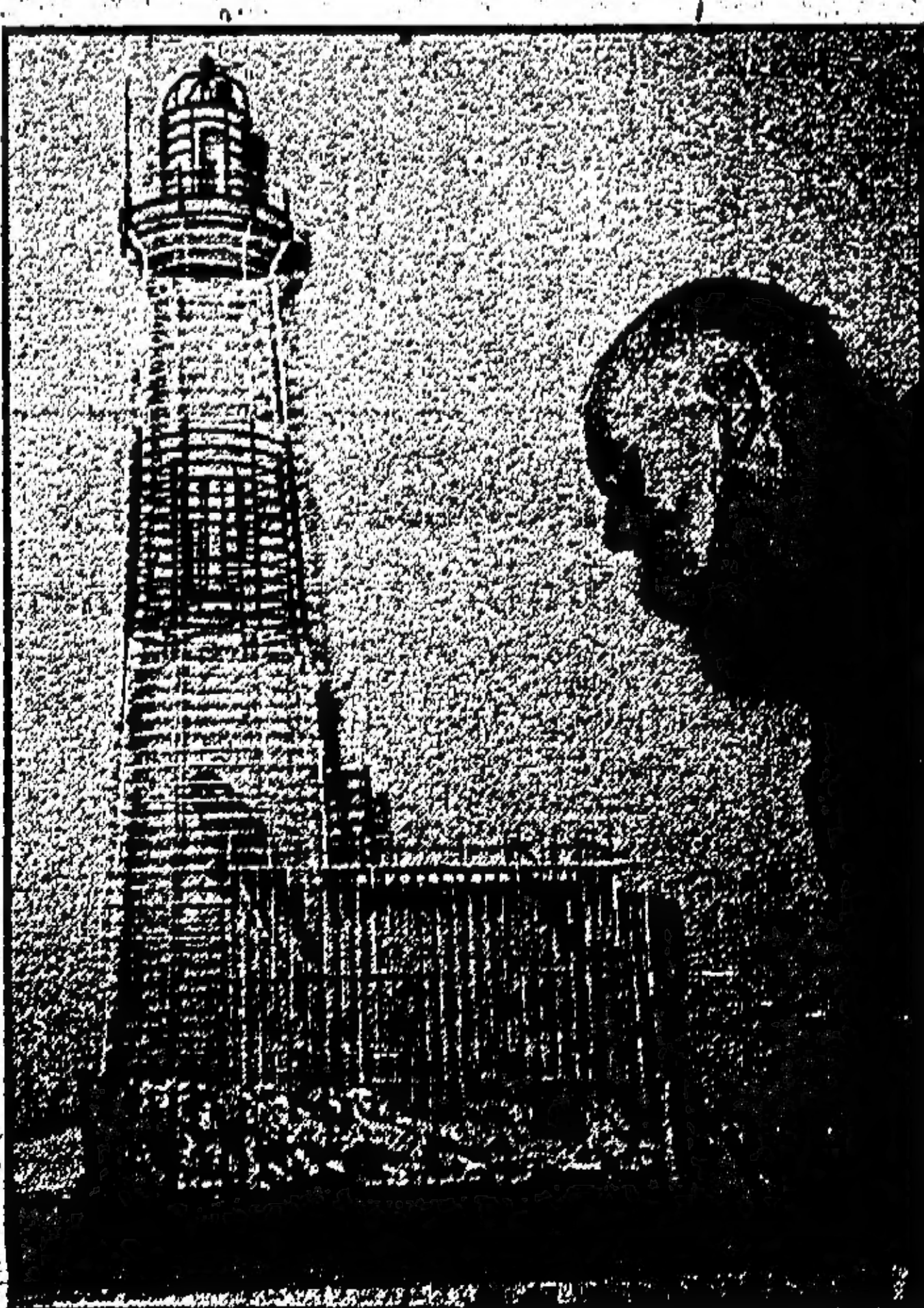
A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- 3 Scotch (4).
 - 7 Bedeck (7).
 - 8 Accustomed (4).
 - 9 Smooth (4).
 - 10 Incident (7).
 - 12 Self-satisfied (4).
 - 15 Tendency (5).
 - 16 Scheme (4).
 - 18 Senda (5).
 - 21 Welcome (5).
 - 22 Article (4).
 - 23 Duck (5).
 - 26 Valley (4).
 - 29 Grave (7).
 - 30 Passport endorsement (4).
 - 31 Splendid (4).
 - 32 Criminal (5).
 - 33 Rejected (4).
- DOWN
- 1 Skilled (5).
 - 2 Grapple with (7).
 - 4 Refuge (5).
 - 5 Sequences (4).
 - 6 Bill of fare (4).
 - 9 Paradise (4).
 - 11 Speak (5).
 - 13 Infure (4).
 - 14 Spout forth (4).
 - 16 Minder (5).
 - 17 Old (4).
 - 18 Ring (4).
 - 20 Deserved (7).
 - 22 Notion (4).
 - 24 Offspring (5).
 - 25 Teacher (5).
 - 27 Paraded (4).
 - 28 Always (4).

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1 Barbel, 7 Evil, 9 Error, 10 Solar, 11 Elm, 13 Constraints, 15 Toll, 16 Veil, 19 Dependent, 22 Lede, 24 Total, 25 Trail, 26 Tote, 27 Sudden. Down: 2 Aspin, 3 Benet, 4 Lascar, 5 Rejected, 6 Alms, 8 Valse, 12 Exile, 13 Regal, 14 Selected, 17 Idol, 19 Spills, 20 Noted, 21 Evade, 23 Attack.

Lighthouse Bird Cage



Mr. Gordon Carter of Eastbourne took six weeks to make this wire model of Beachy Head Lighthouse using 500 pieces of wire in the work. The purpose? A novel home for a bird's nest. The unusual cage is topped by a light which flashes once every 15 seconds, controlled by an electric clock. Reuterphoto.

BARBED WIRE GOES ON THE NEWSMAP

AN URGENT JOB FOR TEMPLER

By SEFTON DELMER

THERE is an old tradition in the British Colonial Service that no man should ever revisit in an official capacity territory which he has ruled as Governor-General.

Well, I trust that no inhibition of this kind is going to stop Sir Gerald Templer from revisiting Malaya.

It is of top urgency that he should fly out here at the earliest opportunity and give both Malaya and Singapore the once-over in his new capacity as Empire anti-Communist trouble-shooter No. 1 to Defence Minister Macmillan.

What is more, when he does come let us make sure there is no silly inter-departmental jealousy which forces a general to confine his attention to purely military matters.

He must have the widest and fullest authority to look into everything, even if it means intruding on strictly civilian and political fields.

Dropped Back

For all the dynamism and drive of Templer's personality would not have gained him his great victory over the Communists in Malaya if Churchill had not given him authority over the civilian as well as the military machine. He will require that kind of power again.

Frankly, I fear Templer is going to be a bit disappointed when he looks at what has been happening in Malaya since his departure last June. I certainly am. For we have dropped back into the old departmentalism here now that Templer and his emergency powers have departed.

Much of that zest which Templer had managed to infuse into the public services seems to have given way to tired old complacency.

The confidence in future stability and security, which Templer had managed to awaken once more in this multi-racial population—shocked by Japanese occupation and the Communist

—looks to me to be in danger of seeping away again.

I have seen quite a few examples of this. The Chinese millionaire is a good example of the kind of thing I mean. This man has vast and valuable holdings in Malaya. One of his directors—Australian—was urging him recently to instal new machinery in their Malayan plant.

Getting Out

The Chinese looked at his Australian adviser.

"My friend," he said, "we don't invest another cent in Malaya. The British are getting out of Malaya. We don't know what's coming after. But the British are staying in Borneo. They will continue to rule there. That's where we are going to put our cash."

Not only he, but many other Chinese business men are betting that the primitiveness and backwardness of the people of Borneo, plus the wealth of the country's mineral resources, will preserve it for many years to come from the subversive blessings of self-rule.

The other day I drove down the long winding road from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore, which runs through some of Malaya's worst terrorist areas. On the way I passed through many of the so-called new villages. These are settlements surrounded by high barbed-wire stockades and equipped with schools, shopping centres, clinics, welfare halls, and excellent houses.

Here Templer had settled the Chinese squatters whom he had rounded up in the jungle so that they should not be able to go on helping the terrorists.

Broken Down

The purpose of these barbed-wire stockades is to prevent anyone from entering or leaving the settlement at night without authority—an essential precaution if you are trying to cut off terrorists from all sources of arms, food and information.

When I last did a trip of this kind Templer was in charge of the country. The stockades were in tip-top order. The guards were alert and watchful. This time? Well, some of the stockades I saw I wouldn't care to have as fencing on my Suffolk farm.

Now, looking at that broken-down fencing, I was not surprised to hear of the deterioration that appears to have set in among some sections of the Chinese Home Guards called up from the new settlements to guard and police them.

During the last 18 months there has been an ever-increasing tendency for these Chinese guards to be careless with their arms. A substantial number has been lost to the terrorists.

Home Guard chief Major-General E. B. de Fontblanc himself says there is evidence that in some cases terrorists have been allowed into villages to help themselves to Home Guard arms and munitions, and have then been allowed to depart.

Between September 1, 1953, and November 14, 1954, the Home Guards lost a total of 103 guns. Of these, 59 were subsequently recaptured.

Since November last year there have been several further cases for which I have not yet been able to obtain figures.

I wonder whether General Templer will share the complacent view of these losses put to me from the public relations office in Kuala Lumpur.

"When it is considered that every night 30,000 guns were on duty with the Home Guards I don't think that is 'bad' (i.e., the loss of 103 guns in 14 months).

Bombs Stolen

I also wonder whether General Templer approves the attitude of the R.A.F. over the theft from their airfield at Tengah of 87 five-hundred-lb. bombs. The theft was discovered last July.

Fifty-two bombs had been seen in half by thieves on a piece of ground almost next door to the airfield. Twelve thousand pounds of TNT explosive had been removed. Of this, the police have been able to recover only 350lb. so far.

Now the R.A.F. despite the gravity of this affair, has not informed the public of the result of its inquiry.

Even the appearance of the complacency and indifference of the authorities is most dangerous in the presence of a subtle enemy like the Communists. Particularly at present, when the Communists are concentrating on political infiltration.

So don't let's fiddle about whether it's useful or not to send General Templer out to look over what his successors have been doing. Get him out here good and quick and set him asking his questions.

That will do more to reassure the public in Malaya than any pledges of self-government from Whitehall.

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



"Why, if it isn't Great-uncle Ethelred come up all the way from the Dukeries just to give Mr. Asquith a piece of his mind!"



General LeMay

LEMay near Omaha, Nebraska, at World Headquarters of the Strategic Air Command,

which will deliver the reply, the "massive retaliation" to Russia, if war should come. What Sir Winston Churchill calls "the Great Deterrent" is in the strong and confident hands of General Curtis LeMay, a burly, handsome man famed for his toughness, a relentless perfectionist, and the Western world's great expert on bombing.

I am spending some time here at what is probably the free world's most important base, talking to the officers and men who are ready and able to fly the hydrogen bombs and the atom bombs to any part of the globe.

This dispatch has not been censored and is exclusive, but a courtesy copy not quoting General LeMay directly on some of the more controversial statements he made to me.

Two Weeks

I talked to General LeMay in the office of General Francis Griswold, who is the vice-commander of Strategic Air Command, hereafter known as S.A.C. LeMay suddenly appeared in the doorway, a cigar clamped in his mouth, as Griswold and I were chatting, and then he added that the United States has no guarantee and no definite agreement that Great Britain will be at the side of the United States when the whistle blows.

I said: "After a few preliminaries, 'It has been stated that you can win a war in three days. Isn't that a bit of an exaggeration?"

General LeMay said: "It is a slight exaggeration, but the war of there is one, can certainly be decided—that is, won or lost, in two weeks. I don't mean finished, mind you, but I mean decided, resolved—Yes, two weeks should do it."

I asked: "Are you absolutely ready? Are the men and machines at peak condition?"

LeMay bit into his cigar, paused, and said, using his favourite phrase: "Somebody might blow the whistle on us tomorrow morning, and once it goes you'll see whether we are ready. Absolutely in peak condition are strong words. Running an air force is rather like running a football team."

A Lesson

"We aren't in peak condition every Saturday, like any team, but we are close to it, and we get stronger and more efficient all the time as new aircraft, and new developments come along."

"If S.A.C. is strong enough and ready enough, the danger that America will ever come under actual attack is diminished. The penalty would be, too great."

I said: "It must be comforting, anyway, to know that you have a strong and stable ally in Britain—powerful bases there. And then there is the R.A.F."

General Griswold spoke up then: "Yes, the Americans and British are like that," holding

DON IDDON, on special assignment, visits the Headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Air Command to find out about the "massive retaliation" that the enemies of Freedom will suffer should there be new world war. This is his first despatch in an important series.

THE FREE WORLD'S H-BOMB PLANES ARE ALWAYS READY

He and his headquarters are ready to do that now—this minute, tonight, tomorrow, any time they are called upon to do the job.

I will not quote his answer directly. The man who has been head of S.A.C. for more than five years, who has directed an incessant H-bomb-war game day after day and night after night, said he didn't know what I meant, but anyway the British were stronger than the French, but he hoped that Munich had been a lesson to us once and for all and that there would be no appeasement.

The general added he didn't like the recognition of Red China or the giving away of islands in the Far East.

A Question

It was at this point that the interview became more of a debate in which I pointed out that under a democratic system both United States and United Kingdom public opinion had to be considered at every step. Congress and Parliament had to make the vital decisions, and I did not think either the United States or Great Britain was doing so badly.

General LeMay frowned, looked hard at me, and suddenly rapped out: "What are we winning? Where are we winning? Tell me."

The general, who is obviously a man impatient with the vagaries of politics and politicians, asked me if I could imagine all the wrangling that goes on and would go on in Congress and Parliament, and then he added that the United States has no guarantee and no definite agreement that Great Britain will be at the side of the United States when the whistle blows.

I said: "I think you'll find that it will be, but you must remember that we are a small group of islands in the North Sea, very vulnerable to attack by a number of Russian hydrogen bombs could possibly wipe us out completely."

Greatest Power

LEMay said that the Russians were not fool and that he did not think the world tip their hand by attacking Britain, knowing that S.A.C. would hammer them within a few hours of any attack on the British.

He said: "Do you know where the safest place would be in the event of war with Russia? In a bomber over Moscow. That would be the safest place."

Then he said that it might not be particularly safe here at Fort Belvoir, headquarters of S.A.C., or at the other bases. He thought strongly that the United States, its military installations and industrial plants, would be the No. 1 target for the Communists.

General LeMay would like to be in the first bomber over Russia if it comes to war, but he would probably not be allowed that if he were in command.

He would direct the "Sunday punch," the annihilating blows, from here at headquarters and, if necessary, he and his officers would take to the air in a specially equipped strato-cruiser called a VC-37, which can carry 100 men and has sleeping quarters for 40. For 30 hours, the strato-cruiser would remain airborne while LeMay directed the devastating onslaught.

There was the further warning in a letter from John Careful on Tea: "His Constant Use of Prejudicial" that the moderate use of tea, which, however, innocent it may seem to those who practice it, is a kind of debauchery no less excessive, and perhaps even more

He must not give the impression that the men who have the great deterrent and the super-bombers to deliver it are, in the American colloquialism, "various to go." LeMay's attitude to his task—and this is a statement which I can quote—is as follows:

"The continuing job of all of us is to let no potential aggressive nation pass us by in air superiority. S.A.C.'s strength always must be great enough to maintain peace by discouraging global war—or, in the event of a major war, strong enough to discharge its mission effectively.

"The long-range bomber and the atomic weapon enable us to carry to an enemy's doorstep the greatest destructive power the world has ever known. The airplane can reach over and beyond the masses of manpower mobilized behind the Iron Curtain.

"It is the only means by which we can bring our full power to bear directly against his muscles and heartland."

It is the hope of General LeMay, General Griswold, and the rest that by their possession of this mighty and terrifying power they will be able to keep the peace for decades.

No Hatred

GENERAL Griswold, a good-looking, sophisticated, and witty man of around 50, told me: "S.A.C. today is like the British Navy of the 18th century. The Royal Navy kept the peace for almost 100 years, apart from minor wars because it was so strong, so formidable, that no one dared challenge it. It was the great shield and barrier."

"Today, S.A.C., with its fleet of bombers and its hydrogen and atom bombs, is filling the role the British Navy did in the last century."

"We believe that because we are ready for war we can prevent war. No one here hates the Russians, do they, General LeMay?"

General LeMay, who was brooding, said "No."

He is sometimes a man of few words. Once he flew the Atlantic and spoke only one sentence: "Take that off the floor," when he saw a sparkling plug lying in the cockpit.

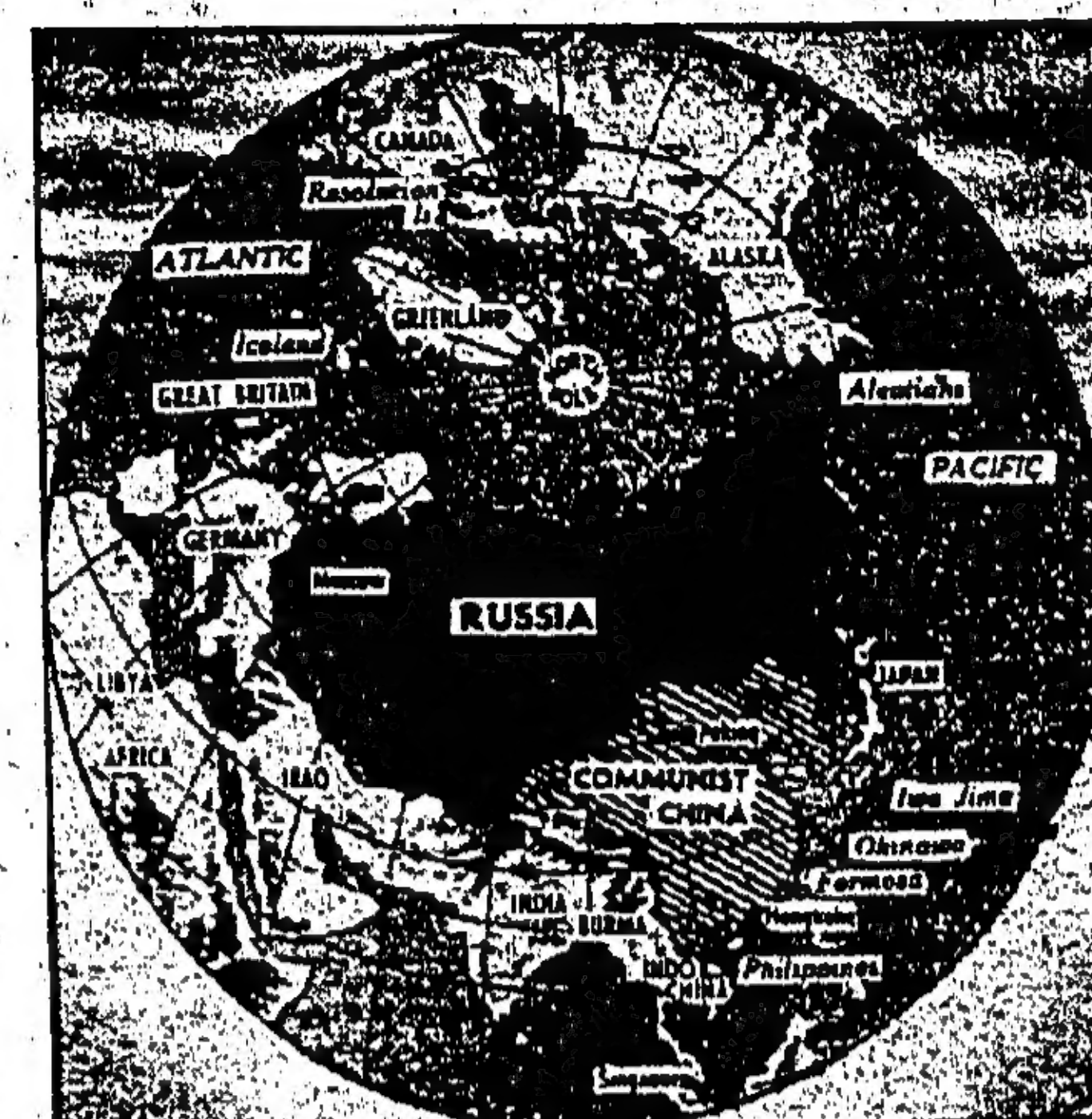
He has the strong impression of a man absolutely straight, sincere, and direct to the point of bluntness, and sometimes brutally candid.

All Flyers

LEMay told me that he was a believer in generals and all officers being able to fly the bombers, and to fly them frequently. He himself regularly flies the B-36, a giant cigar-shaped flying warship which S.A.C. has in quantity.

He flies the B-47, the smaller 700-m.p.h. all-jet bomber, and he has also piloted the all-jet super-bomber, the B-52, which is coming off the production line and which will provide the backbone of the general's new armada.

General Griswold, who can and does pilot anything, said: "Well, we want our young pilots saying: 'Look at that bald-headed



The map shows how U.S. bombers could circle the world from widespread bases.

old son-of-a-gun with glasses. If he can fly the damn thing, we certainly can."

I asked if the knowledge that they were sitting on such weapons of colossal destruction was a great strain.

General Griswold said: "No, this is like the flagship of the Royal Navy again in the old days. I don't think the admirals on an attitude of 'Let's have a bash, boys,' and not be as scrupulously prepared as the Americans, with the result that the R.A.F. accident rate is three times as high as that of the U.S. forces."

The Legend

I CHANGED the subject and told General LeMay that I had seen him described as "the toughest cop of the Western world" and other things, and asked him how did he react to them. General LeMay said: "You don't believe everything the newspapermen write, do you?"

One of the stories about LeMay has become legend. He is implacable in insisting on security and constant readiness. His men have to keep their guns with them at all times.

The other day he saw a master-sergeant who had put his gun aside while entering his lunch outside a hangar. He called the men together and said: "This afternoon I found one man guarding a hangar with a gun sandwiched. There'll be no more of that."

He is constantly testing the efficiency of the men he commands. Recently he had an Air Force plane repainted to look like a commercial airliner. With a picked squad of men he got aboard, flew to an S.A.C. base, sent a distress radio message and requested permission to make an emergency landing. Permission was granted, and LeMay and his men landed.

Then, armed with tommy-guns, they set out to capture the airliner. But security police quickly rounded up the LeMay party. LeMay revealed his identity and congratulated them.

General Griswold pointed out, however, that the United States

Civil Lure

HE is also plagued by some of his best young men being lured away by fancy salaries from private industry. Men sign on for a four-year hitch and can get twice the money from General Motors or Westinghouse or United States Steel.

We talked about the Royal Air Force for a few minutes, and I asked if there were any great differences between the R.A.F. and the United States Air Force, apart from the fact that the Americans had so much bigger resources at their command.

One officer in the room said that the only difference between the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.F. was that the U.S.A.F. had planes.

It wasn't a good joke, but I smiled anyway, and then it was explained to me that the British had striven so hard for perfection in their aircraft that we had not got the aeroplanes we wanted and needed.

General Griswold pointed out, however, that the United States

Day And Night

FRANKLY, I found him much warmer and cordial than I had expected. Behind that hard jaw and the blunt nose is a very human man.

LeMay's son, on his 16-year-old daughter, and rarely fails to write every day when he is away to his charming wife, who is a brilliant hostess.

He is a fanatic about sports cars, and motor racing is his hobby.

Flying is his life. Every day and night his big B-52 and B-36 bombers are out on missions, flying 30 hours or more at a time, "bombing" the major cities and factories of the United States with camera guns in simulated war conditions.

Directing the operations is LeMay, himself a man with more than 9,000 hours in the air, effect of six children of a working man, who fought his way to his hands is the great deterrent.

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TOMORROW:
Three Jobs For
The Iron Fist

J. W. TAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPHS

by our Staff Photographers

Colony Athletics
Cattle for Vietnam
Kwong Wah Hospital
Church of St. Francis
Po Leung Kuk Dinner
Air Force Club Presentation
Deep Water Bay Golf Club
British Trade Mission to China
Good Hope School Foundation
Technical College Old Boys Dinner
St. Stephen's Old Boys Dinner
Chindits Association Dinner
Oxford-Cambridge Dinner
Ralph Shield Competition
Douglas Bland Art Show
Motor Cycle Gymkhana
All Local Sports
Local Presentations
Local Weddings
etc. etc.

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"TEA UP" DIDN'T ALWAYS GO DOWN WELL

BRITAIN'S national beverage—tea—still holds the headlines and public interest with its intriguing price fluctuations, but it has not always claimed public favour. The noted Henry Saville denounced tea as a filthy habit, and Cobbett wrote an article saying that he would not give tea to pigs, which today's addicts would consider to be a tragic waste!

Judging from his tea-meeting of the Brick Lane Branch of the United Grand Junction Ebenezer Temperance Association, novelist Charles Dickens could hardly be said to be a great tea-lover. And Young, the poet, in a sombre lament on the influence of the noxious beverage,

wrote: "Tea! How I tremble at thy fatal stream!"

There then was the husband lecturing his wife on household economy, who is made to declaim in a manual of matrimonial etiquette published in 1758: "I look upon afternoon tea as one of the greatest superfluities that custom has introduced among us. . . . I have calculated the expense and dare affirm that a very moderate tea-table, with all its equipage, cannot be supported on less than £40 or £50 a year, which I consider a wicked waste."

One of the early objections to tea save voices in the now extinct magazine "The Female Spectator" to this solemn warning:

"Tea, whether of the Green or Bohea kind, when taken to excess, occasions a dejection of spirits and fatigues, which lays the drinkers of it under a kind of necessity of having recourse to more stimulating liquors. The moderate and sober of the sex find themselves obliged to drink wine pretty freely after it. None of them nowadays pretends to entertain with the one, without the other, and the bottle and glass are as sure an appendage to the tea-table as the slop basin."

There was the further warning in a letter from John Careful on Tea: "His Constant Use of Prejudicial" that the moderate use of tea, which, however, innocent it may seem to those who practice it, is a kind of debauchery no less excessive, and perhaps even more

pernicious than those of which the men who are not professed rakes are generally accused."

At one time tea was not at all popular in high quarters of Scotland. Lord President Forbes, of the Court of Session, declared it to be an improper diet, expensive, wasteful of time, and calculated to render the population sickly and to corrupt their morals. The ladies of Glasgow and

Edinburgh, however, were reported to be in agreement with his Lordship, and the number of tea-parties, with or without wine as an appendix, increased.

The noted John Harvey was amongst the noble agitators who sought to save tea-drinkers from

perdition. He solemnly asserted that: "women's beauty would fade if she drank tea. It was thought to be very much a case of a voice crying in the wilderness. A few other lone voices were heard howling, but to little effect."

One irate Scot informed Lord Tweeddale that "this abominable drug" was at the root of "all our financial misfortunes." He called for it to be taxed at once as it was the cause of the nation's ruin. This measure, he submitted, would cause the abuse to cease. "For it is the meanness of the price that encourages the poorer sort to purchase, and the duty added to the low value at which it is now sold would prove an effectual bar to the use of it among those who have decared twopenny ale for it."

J. W. TAYLOR

YESTERDAY'S ATHLETICS

SWEENEY'S 400 METRES THE BEST EFFORT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By "RECORDER"

The Colony records for all the metric distances between 400 and 1,500 Metres fell yesterday at the Fifth Annual HKAAA Championships at Caroline Hill. It came as no surprise to anyone that Lt. Keith Burch clocked exactly 2 minutes in the 800 Metres final. He had been expected to be the first to break two minutes for the distance in Hongkong and in actual fact did so 2:00.0 on the stopwatch represents an actual effort of somewhere between 1:59.91 and 1:59.99.

But the greatest performance was, undoubtedly, Lt. M. C. Sweeney's 400 Metres, all on his own, in 51.4 seconds. The Decathlon tables award 744 points for this performance while Keith Burch's 2:00.0 for the 800 Metres is worth 694 points. Mike Curzon's new Colony 1,500 Metres record of 4 minutes 13.6 seconds, the biggest surprise of the meeting, is worth 695 points on the Decathlon table, so he too finished ahead of Burch.

All three, plus some others, will be in action again on the Royal Air Force's grass track at Kai Tak next Saturday afternoon both over 440 and 880 Yards and it is not unlikely that Burch may take back the leadership for the best performance of all, but that remains to be seen.

UNLUCKIEST

Unluckiest athlete at the Championships was Malcolm Marsh, who came a cropper over both the ninth and 10th hurdles in the 400 Metres Hurdles when well on the way to what could have been a new Colony record at about 58.6 seconds. There can be little doubt that he will take the Colony record in this event on his next effort over the low hurdles.

Marsh's fall and a pulled muscle suffered by Stephen Xavier spoiled the relays. Marsh turned out for the 4 x 400 Metres but, without Xavier, the HKAAAC wasn't fast enough to build the Army.

Great victory of the Championships was that of the Army relay team of Capt. Mulvaney, Cpl. P. J. Bailey and Bdm. Walden. Beyond a few optimists like Major Walker, nobody would have conceded them a chance against the HKAAAC team of Robert Marques, Eddie Loureiro, Billy McCall and Stephen Xavier, but their baton passing was perfect and the HKAAAC less valuable yards on two bad exchanges.

Stephen Xavier, almost closed the gap on Walden on the last leg, but not quite. Walden had the rare distinction of breasting a tape with Xavier on his heels. When one considers that Xavier, McCall and Marques finished first, second and fourth in the 100 Metres Dash, it was indeed a great victory for the Army.

The 4 x 400 Metres Relay saw a great effort by Mike Curzon on the anchor leg against Sweeney, but he couldn't close the gap though he did not concede Sweeney anything if one can go by the stopwatch. Both were timed in 52.8 seconds on the anchor leg.

There were some great performances by the also-rans. Worthy of particular mention are Lee Shu-chung, Chang Yai-hung, Roy Bell and Chan Kim-hung.

NOT UNSET

Lee Shu-chung, a great runner as a schoolboy, had not turned in any reasonably good performance in a long time, but he wasn't going to be upset by Burch's reputation and his 2:04.6 in second place was the fastest time ever by a local boy, displacing Leung Kam-po's 2:05.2 (in Macao two years ago) as the "native record".

Chang Yai-hung had done no training at all for a whole year. There are no facilities for athletic training at Tai O on Lantau Island where he is now a schoolteacher, but his 16.0 in the High Hurdles behind Capt. Mulvaney's new Colony record

of 16.5 was a great performance. Beaten by an eyelash, he could have won in new Colony record time if he hadn't knocked down some five hurdles. Knocking down a standard weight hurdle is no joke as Malcolm Marsh will be glad to tell anyone. Marsh, by the way, finished in a good 64.4 seconds in the low hurdles despite two falls.

Roy Bell, considered by some the finest stylist among the low hurdles though he hasn't much speed on the flat, ran a great tactical race to finish second in an all-star field, just ahead of former Champion Tony Colucci. Chan Kim-hung, one of the finest sprinters in Colony athletics, had the distinction of finishing fourth in an all-star field in the 5,000 Metres. This South China athlete has competed steadily since 1951 without much success and his great performance yesterday merits the "colours" that the SCAA annually present in their best performances.

Keith Burch can thank 2/Lt. Jenkinson of 14 Field for having set the early pace in the 800 Metres. Jenkinson paid for this effort as, with a steeper pace, he may have finished ahead of Lee Shu-chung.

UNLUCKY

Unlucky starter in this event was the HKAAAC's Frank Walker, in great form with a 2:10.3 in the heats of the event, who actually ran about a mile in the final yesterday as he noted the 800 Metres was the first event of the afternoon.

He ran all the way to the stadium, had just about enough time to put on his track shoes and was in the race with a breath of about half a minute. At that, he wasn't far behind Jenkinson in fourth place. It is noteworthy that not only Burch, but Jenkinson, Lee Shu-chung and Walker, as well as covered the first half of the 800 Metres in under 60 seconds.

Mike Curzon gave due credit to Lt. Paul Miller for his 1,500 Metres record when speaking into the "micro" for the benefit of listeners to Radio Hongkong. It was Miller's steady and near scorching pace over the second and third lap that made the record possible.

Burch won a great 5,000 Metres race from Gil Scott by a tenth of a second in 16 minutes 39.3 seconds and both got a great ovation from the crowd at the prize-giving. L/Cpl. A. L. Smith dropped out after several laps, having run earlier in the 1,500 Metres.

Bdm. J. Highton was a surprise third and Chan Kim-hung a good fourth as established distance stars. Chan King-yin and Au Chung-sing faded out of the picture. Tulloh, generally chary of going the pace-setting, took the lead in the later stages of the race and Scott came nearer than ever to upsetting his rival in a driving finish.

South China's little Ho May-yeo scored a great victory over Capt. P. E. Garrard in the women's 100 Metres Dash, but neither was near the Colony record of 13.0 seconds they set jointly in one of the heats the previous day.

Capt. Garrard had a painful session at a dentist's the same morning and, if it hadn't been for that, could well have won. The record of 13.0 seconds set in the heats, beating the 13.1 mark held jointly by Rita Hall and Jennifer Hart, is likely to be accepted as the general consensus of opinion among officials is that the wind aid on Saturday was negligible during the race.

TWO CENTIMETRES MORE
The course was found to be correct and Captain Garrard actually ran two centimetres further than Ho May-yeo, re-measurement of the two lanes showed. Credit must be given to Raleigh Leung, PO Robinson and "Paddy" MacMahon for a big re-measuring job that involved covering 3,200 metres of the track.

It is understood that "Paddy" is going to protest to the HKAAAC Committee at its next meeting that we are behind the times here in not conducting a survey of level in each lane and making allowance for steel tape expansion with thermometer readings and calculations every few minutes.

An informal meeting of the Records Committee, with Hon. Secretary Jimmy Kirkwood in the Chair, decided that in future record-keepers will have to assist in the re-measuring, being delegated the job of stepping down with an eight-inch ruler every five metres of the track. It was also agreed that certificates for re-measuring competence, Grade "A", would only be awarded those who have done the job of re-measuring a lane the length of the track.

The field events produced little of note. Ling Sum cleared 5 feet 9 inches in the High Jump and came near enough to setting a new Colony mark at 5 feet 11 inches. Ng Chun-wai managed 43 feet 10 inches in the Hop, Step and Jump. That was on his first effort and before the run-up became a stretch of gaping holes. His 20 feet 5 inches winning long jump was good in the conditions, and Fong Sik's 16 feet 3 inches in the women's event was an even better performance.

Invitations for the two special races at Kai Tak the coming Saturday have been or will be extended to the following:

400 Yards: Lt. M. C. Sweeney, M. C. Marsh, M. P. Curzon, Lt. K. Burch, W. L. McCall and Cpl. T. E. Dane.
880 Yards: Lt. K. Burch, M. P. Curzon, 2/Lt. D. H. Jenkinson, Frank Walker and Lt. M. C. Sweeney.

THE RESULTS

Men's Events
100 metres: 1. Stephen Xavier (HKAAAC); 2. Wong Man-wan (SCAA); Time: 11 sec.
200 metres: 1. Stephen Xavier (HKAAAC); 2. Fung Kai-lee (HKAAAC); 3. D. W. Clouting (SCAA); Time: 23.9 sec.
400 metres: 1. Michael Sweeney (Army AA); 2. Leung Kam-po (SCAA); 3. Cpl. A. L. Smith (Army AA); Time: 51.4 sec. (Colony Record).
800 metres: 1. Keith Burch (Army AA); 2. L. H. Jenkinson (Army AA); Time: 2 min. (Colony Record).
1,000 metres: 1. Michael Curzon (HKAAAC); 2. P. Miller (Army AA); 3. L. H. Jenkinson (Army AA); Time: 2 min. 15.8 sec. (Colony Record).
1,500 metres: 1. Mike Curzon (HKAAAC); 2. G. Scott (Army AA); 3. Bdm. Highton (Army AA); Time: 4 min. 13.6 sec. (Colony Record).
5,000 metres: 1. Lee Shu-chung (SCAA); 2. Ling Sum (SCAA); 3. P. E. Garrard (Army AA); Height: 5 ft. 9 in.
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NOTICE

VEHICULAR FERRY
Owing to repairs to Piers,
the Vehicular Ferry Service
will be suspended as
follows:—

Tuesday Evening
the 28th March, 1955
The last ferry will leave at
12.00 Midnight instead of
1.00 a.m.

During the abovementioned
suspension Passenger Ferries
will be operated as usual.

**THE HONG KONG &
YAU MATI FERRY
CO., LTD.**
Hongkong, 9th March, 1955.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

"ABRUSTUS"
Damaged cargo on this vessel
will be surveyed by Messrs. God-
dard & Douglas at Holt's Wharf
from 10 a.m. on March 30 and 31,
1955, and consignees are requested
to have their representatives present
during the survey.

**BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.**
Hong Kong, March 28, 1955.

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SOAPY WATER
IS GOOD FOR
PLANTS:
USE BATH SURPLUS
IN THE
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WATER IS PRECIOUS

Asian Incomes Still Below Prewar Level

New York, Mar. 27.
A United Nations Economic survey of Asia and the Far East said today that despite clear evidence of progress the real income per head of the population has remained in a state of relative stagnation and is still—nearly a decade after the war—below prewar level.

The survey, which covers 1954, was prepared by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE).

It said the problem of constant and excessive fluctuations in the prices of the region's major exports had kept Asian economies in a state of instability.

SUSTAIN DEVELOPMENT
The survey also emphasized the inadequacy of domestic capital formation in the region and the need for foreign capital to sustain economic development.

Available domestic savings are estimated at less than \$2,000,000,000 (£714,000,000) while annual development requirements excluding Communist China and Japan were estimated at \$5,000,000,000 (£1,785,000,000).
Thus a \$3,000,000,000 (£1,071,000,000) gap has to be bridged while external aid at present is estimated at less than \$1,000,000,000 (£337,000,000).
The survey said that an annual inflow of \$3,000,000,000 (£1,071,000,000) would make all the difference between a stagnant economy and a developing one.

The survey noted a "welcome trend in the right direction" in the last two years and said most countries in the region had reviewed their laws and regulations governing foreign investments.

IRRIGATION
The survey said most of the countries in the region have concentrated their development programmes on irrigation and flood control.
It noted that this was "unlike mainland China which has concentrated its efforts on the establishment of heavy industries and the rapid creation of necessary transport and power facilities even at the cost of lowering the present consumption rate."

The other countries, the survey said, "have followed a policy of maintaining current consumption, and, therefore, have naturally proceeded slowly with the programme of industrialisation. The development of consumer goods industries has been slow."

Washington, Mar. 27.
United States officials are disturbed by the reluctance of the Japanese Government to accept private American investment capital which they feel can play an important role in restoring Japan's economic health.

"We have told Japanese authorities time and again that their Government should welcome private capital from this country," one official said.

The Eisenhower Administration economic experts are convinced that it is in Japan's self-interest to encourage a greater flow of dollars into basic industries. They feel that the Japanese investment laws are much too strict and that they are impeding industrial growth.

The reluctance of the Japanese Government to adopt a more liberal investment policy is regarded here as a gap in the blueprint for rebuilding Japan into a prosperous nation and a major bulwark against Communism in the Far East.

BLUEPRINT INCLUDES
1. Continued United States spending through the offshore procurement programme in Japan.
2. Indirect economic aid.
3. Tariff cuts on Japanese exports.

4. And sounder fiscal and economic policies on the part of the Japanese Government itself.
The reason for the present policy—Japan's fear that foreign interests might otherwise capture control of industry—is not considered here to be valid because it is believed appropriate safeguards can be taken without keeping dollar capital away.
Anxious to see Japan move towards self-help policies, Washington is waiting with keen interest for the reaction of the Government to proposals by about six United States companies to invest a total of \$5,000,000 in various Japanese industries—Reuters.

Singer Once A Boxer



Don Cornell, American singing star in London for a variety tour, seen at his London hotel with Ron Barton, the West Ham cruiserweight. The boxing setup is explained by the fact that Cornell used to be a boxer, and uses the punch-bag as part of his "keep fit" routine.—Central Press Photo.

EAST BERLIN RESTAURANTS WERE A 'MUST' FOR THE WEST Now They Are Nearly All Half Empty

Berlin, Mar. 27.
Staffs of the state-owned restaurants in Communist East Berlin fear numerous dismissals now that the East German Government has made it too expensive for West Germans and West Berliners to eat and drink there.

The restaurants are half empty, for the prices are beyond the purse of the average East Berliner.

The Government said that visitors to Stalin Alley, the "first socialist street" in East Berlin.

Reservations had often to be made for dinner in the Johannishof, the "equally sumptuous hotel for state guests" and other important visitors. Western reporters who have gone there since the new regulations came into force say that only a few people—probably Communist officials of the intelligentsia—were sitting at the tables.

LOOK IN VAIN
Walters today look in vain for the usual guests from the "capitalist" West in East Berlin's "show places": the "Cafe Warschau" in Stalin Alley, the "Restaurant Budapest," and the "Hotel Johannishof."

Privately, they say that they believe a general food shortage has prompted the East German Government to discourage Western guests.

The East Berlin restaurants had been magnets for West Berlin gourmets who could have an excellent Hungarian goulash, for instance, for half what it would have cost in West Berlin.

Now, each guest has to show identity card to the waiter before he orders, and anyone found to be from the West German currency area is required to pay in West marks.

Little notes informing guests of this have been inserted in the bill of fare, and posters have been put up outside the restaurants.

In the past, "hardly a table was available in the Cafe Warschau, a sumptuously decorated place which was almost a 'must' for every Westerner."

Walters at the Johannishof told Western reporters that since the "mark for mark" regulation came into effect, they had not sold a single portion of Russian caviare, which costs 1480 marks for 50 grammes (slightly less than two ounces), and no bottles of the heavy, Swedish champagne from the Crimea.

The new rule has deprived one West Berlin newspaper, the "Telegraf" of a daily feature. It used to send reporters to the H.O. restaurants and printed a column of licence numbers of West Berlin cars found parked there. West Berliners buying in East Berlin are considered unpatriotic.

TOO SCARCE
The belief that the new regulation was caused by a food shortage is supported by East German refugees, who say that foodstuffs in East Germany were more scarce this Christmas than last. Hardly any butter, eggs, almonds, or chocolate were available, they state. Fish, poultry and coffee were also scarce.

East German newspapers, during the autumn, constantly urged the population to help with the harvest. Clerks, housewives, and school children were ordered out on this work. There were numerous purges in administrative departments of "deficiencies" in farm supplies.

The chronic shortage of industry and consumer goods long ago caused the East German authorities to forbid the sale of such goods to West Berliners for anything but Western currency.—China Mail Special.

SOUTH AFRICA FACING CRISIS OVER MAIZE

Salisbury, Mar. 27.
Both South and Central Africa are facing a crisis due to the production and accumulation of surplus maize.

By the end of the season, the Union is expected to have a surplus of 26,000,000 bags, a year's consumption, of maize, the staple production of the African population.

The Maize Board has been meeting in Cape Town and is believed to have recommended that the present price of 31s a bag should be reduced to 30s.

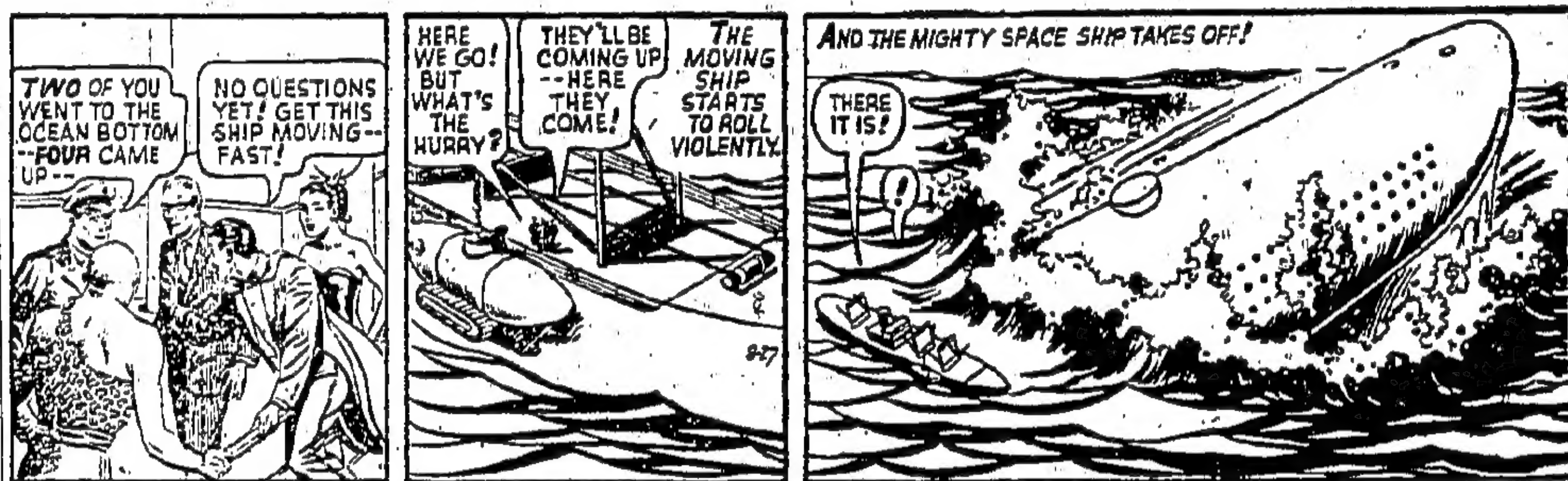
This is an important political decision and the cabinet can not make up its mind. The Maize Board's discussions have been postponed.

Farmers in both South Africa and Rhodesia argued that during and since the war, when world maize prices soared, they have been receiving very much less—sometimes about half the world price and that consequently they are entitled to protection now. Nevertheless they have been doing well at current prices, hence the rise in production.

Production by African farmers has also increased and although their consumption has gone up, too, the African areas are now also producing a surplus. Plans are being investigated in both territories for turning the surplus to stock food, but so far no really satisfactory solution appears to have been reached.—France-Press.

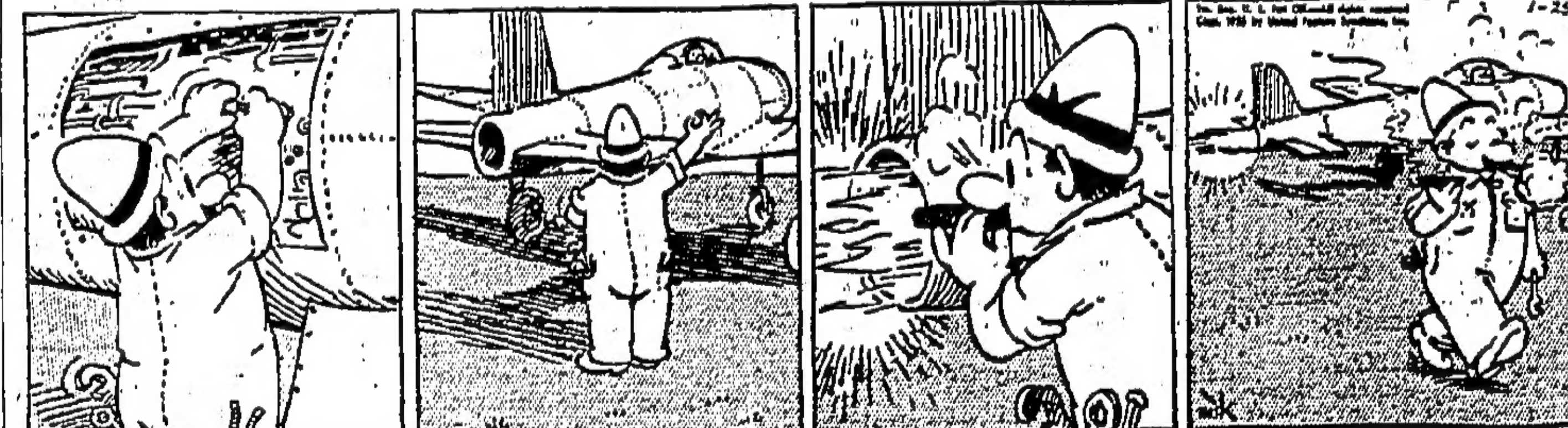
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



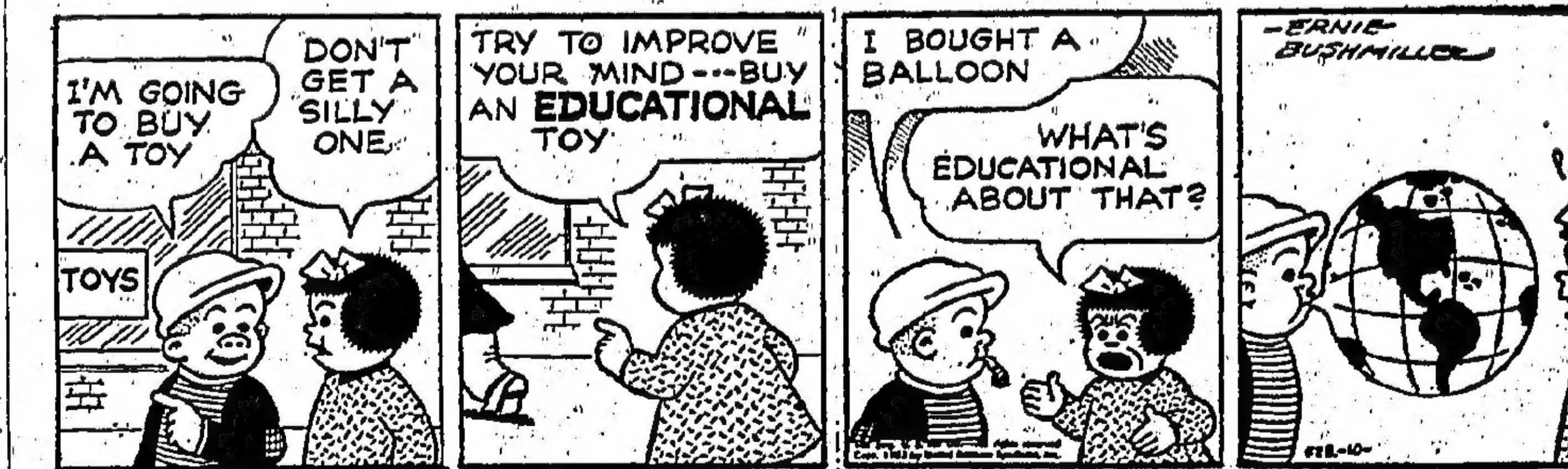
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By Mik



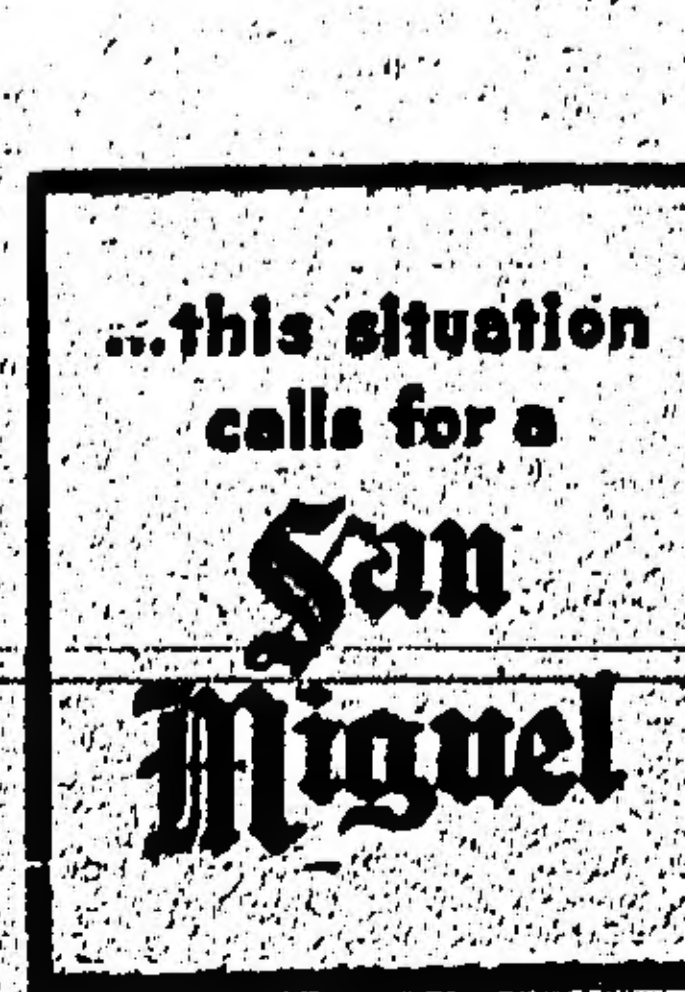
NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. time, can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mail can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

MONDAY, MARCH 28
Thailand, Malaya, India, 6 p.m.
India, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.
By Surface
Macao, 6 a.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 29
By Air
Japan, 8 a.m.
Pakistan, France, 8 a.m.
Philippines, 11 a.m.
Formosa, 11 a.m.
Japan, Hawaii, Noon.
N. Borneo, Australia, New Zealand, 2 p.m.
Korea, 5 p.m.
Formosa, Japan, Okinawa, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.

Alcohol, Depressant Not Stimulant

London, Mar. 27.
Most of the ideas we have about alcohol and its effect on the human body are inaccurate.

These are some of the startling new findings of research.
● Alcohol is not a stimulant. It is the opposite—a depressant drug.
● It does not damage, directly, internal body cells.
● A regular drinker does not have a greater tolerance to alcohol than a non-drinker.
● Neither exercise, coffee nor other drugs can speed up the sobering process.
● Drunkenness, or sobriety, depend wholly on the ratio of alcohol to blood volume present in the blood stream.
● Why has alcohol the reputation of being a stimulant, if it is not?

THE ANSWER

The answer is that most persons, when sober, do not behave in an uninhibited way. Alcohol gradually paralyses the central nervous system, tending to affect first the outer layers of the brain, which act as our social and moral "watchdogs". The effect is to release tendencies to behave in uninhibited fashion. On the surface, such behaviour appears to be that of a stimulated person.

As more alcohol is taken, deeper brain areas are put out of order. After inhibitions go muscular controls—speech, walking, ability to react to traffic signals, and so on. Eventually, if the deepest centres of the brain can be paralysed, the heart and breathing stop and the drinker dies.

Physicians now believe that the worst damage is done to the drinker as a total person, rather than to his brain cells, or heart or lungs. Alcohol in concentrations below 15 per cent does not seem to injure individual cells, and only those of the mouth, throat and stomach are exposed to it in such concentration. In fact, death commonly follows a blood-alcohol level of six to seven-tenths of one per cent. Why, then, do some persons become noticeably drunk on one or two drinks, while others, confirmed and steady drinkers, behave quite normally and acceptably after a half-dozen whiskies?

ONE EXPLANATION

One explanation lies in the fact that the steady drinker has learned to let the quantity of alcohol in his blood rise to a certain level. The regular drinker is like the sailor who can walk a pitching deck on which the landlubber cannot remain upright. Whether accustomed to alcohol or not, two men of the same size who drink the same amount will have the same proportion of alcohol in their blood and will be equally intoxicated.

It is not true that black coffee, a cold shower or strenuous activity will hasten sobering. Sobriety comes only with chemical destruction of alcohol in the body, and this process proceeds at a fairly uniform pace whether the drinker is asleep or awake, active or passive. The "remedies" will wake him up, but he is really still just as intoxicated as his blood-alcohol level says he is.

What does the body do to alcohol? After we drink some alcohol, a small amount passes directly from the stomach into the blood stream. Most of it, however, enters the blood stream from the small intestine after passage through the stomach. Food already in the stomach, or food taken with the alcohol, slows down its absorption. This explains why a single cocktail on an empty stomach gives more "kick" than two or three drinks after a full meal. Beer and wine, which contain certain food elements and suspended solids, raise the blood-alcohol level more slowly than brandy, rum, whisky, or other distilled drinks.

IN BLOOD STREAM

Once in the blood stream, alcohol quickly enters all the other body liquids. Since 90 per cent of the blood is water, while water makes up only 70 per cent of the body as a whole, the concentration of alcohol in body tissues is generally only about three-fourths as high as it is in the blood. It is converted into energy and in the end into carbon dioxide and water at the rate of about three-eighths of an ounce per hour in an average man. Thus, a person who drank exactly that amount each hour would never become drunk—except perhaps by suggestion—despite the fact that he would consume eight ounces of alcohol—equivalent of a pint of rum or whisky—in 20 hours.

One bit of alcohol folklore, confirmed by scientists, is that champagne or sparkling wine "goes to one's head" faster than other alcoholic beverages. The reason: the gas dissolved in the bubbling wine is released in the stomach, and its pressure forces alcohol more quickly into the blood stream.

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

TREASURY TELLS NATION

Chancellor's Actions Explained In Bulletin For Industry

From Ronald Boxall

London, Mar. 27.

Strict measures taken recently by the Government to curb spending were the first hint many people had that British economy was running into trouble. But except for the vague talk about a worsening balance of payments it was not officially explained at the time what exactly had gone wrong.

Even the experts were a little bewildered at the suddenness of the change from "prosperity without inflation" to a situation in which it became necessary to raise the bank rate twice within a month, reimpose restrictions on hire purchase deals and authorise the Bank of England to take special measures in defence of sterling.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

By Elmer Walzer

New York, Mar. 27.
Stocks took off for the moon when the Fulbright Committee ended its first public hearings on the stock market last week.

The list all but achieved near bull market, highs and nearly duplicated the wide gains of the week ended Mar. 4. That was the day the market set new tops.

Then it fell sharply, and rallied again with the upturn gaining in scope in the past week. The market rose each day except Monday when some profit-taking developed. It was restrained on Friday by the usual weekend operations.

BIG DAY

Wednesday was the big day. In that session the industrial average soared 5.40 points, its second best gain of 1954. Smaller gains were achieved in the other sectors.

For the week, the industrial average gained 10.02 points, railroad, 3.82 points and utility, 5.20 points.

This was a week of atomic issues. Anything with an atom in its name rose sharply. There were good gains, too, in electronics issues. Then the trading spread to metals, steels, motors, and finally to rails.

Some of the oils had good advances. Building issues moved up. Shipbuilding stocks were active and strong. Glass shares came to life late in the week and recorded wide gains.

The upturn reflected relief over the end of the hearings on the market, statements that no new market legislation is needed, and highly favourable business news.

CHRYSLER SPORTS

Individual shares responded vigorously to news items about their companies.

Chrysler started when its financial Vice-President said earnings in January and February exceeded all of 1954. The issue closed the week with a gain of nearly 5 points.

General Motors was up more than a point. Automobile output broke all records for the week and indications were the first quarter production figure would set a new record. The rumour that the group was about to engage in production of nuclear power equipment was strong.

Combustion Engineering gained 1.44 points; Babcock and Wilcox, 1.7 points; and Worthington Corp., 8 1/2.

In the electronics group, Stromberg Carlson rose 7 1/2 and Zenith, 11 1/2 points.—United Press.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:—
U.S. dollar (per \$1) 5.80
Sterling pound (per £1) 10.25
Indonesian rupiah (per 100) 14.20
Siam baht (per 100) 27.00
Singapore (Straits) 2.00
Indo-China piastres (per 100) 2.20

Signs of Strain

Thirdly, ominous signs of strain have appeared in the manpower position.

These three factors in the present inflationary situation are analysed in the Treasury's Bulletin for Industry.

CAPACITY ADEQUATE

Between October 1954 and the end of February imports rose £160 million or 12 per cent compared with the same period a year earlier. Exports on the other hand increased only £29 million or two and half per cent. As a result the "trade gap"—difference between imports and exports—increased by £131 million or 69 per cent.

More than half the increase in imports was accounted for by foodstuffs. Tea was the biggest item in this—all of the increase being due to higher prices. And more foreign grain was needed to make up for the poor harvest at home.

The rest of the increase was to feed Britain's thriving industries. Wood pulp, copper, paper and coal were the big items.

But not all of the higher imports bill was due to heavier purchases. Increase in prices played its part too.

ADDS £200 MILLION

Import prices were six per cent higher in January than a year earlier—and a rise of this order, other things being equal, adds £200 million to the nation's annual import bill. There was a marked rise in the price of foodstuffs; and manufactured goods, basic materials and fuel all cost more.

Higher import prices have had an immediate effect on the balance of payments; but indirectly they can help the United Kingdom. Other sterling countries which supply a large part of the world's raw materials stand to gain and this benefits the gold reserves. And in the long run, higher prices mean bigger incomes in primary producing countries which thus have more to spend on imports, including those from Britain.

Britain cannot take advantage of this unless her exports are competitive. In an attempt to keep them so prices have been held stable over the past year—but still Britain is losing ground to other countries.

The Bank of France Statement

Paris, Mar. 27.
The Bank of France statement for the week ended March 17, reads as follows:

Total gold holdings 2,281,591,429
Total foreign currencies 1,601,177,641
Total balance abroad 3,882,769,070
In E.P.U. 7,322,222,019
Advanced to Govt. 12,000,000,000
Stable fund 1,811,077,054,597
Total bills discounted 2,394,674,497,335
Bank note in circulation 4,501,261,000
Current account and deposits 112,325,401,707
—United Press.

Singapore Rubber Market

Singapore, Mar. 27.
The rubber market held quiet last Saturday and prices showed toward the close.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:—
U.S. dollar (per \$1) 5.80
Sterling pound (per £1) 10.25
Indonesian rupiah (per 100) 14.20
Siam baht (per 100) 27.00
Singapore (Straits) 2.00
Indo-China piastres (per 100) 2.20

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Hongkong Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$162,440. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS
HS Bank 1560

INSURANCES

Underwriters 10.20 65 @ 48

SHIPPING

Asia Nav 75c

DOCKS, ETC.

K. Wharf 60

Dock XD 24.70

Provident (O) 12.10

KAIL 7.10 7.25

LAND, ETC.

HK Hotel 15.70 17.10 200 @ 17

HK Land XD 64 1/2 65 700 @ 65

Wing Land 2.00

Humphreys 2.00

XD 1.97 1.20 1/4

UTILITIES

Central 20 20 1/4

Small Ferry 114

C. Light (O) 17.10 17.50 100 @ 17.50

C. Light (N) 13.50 14.10 500 @ 17.70

Electric 33 35 1/2 1700 @ 35 1/2

Telephone 51 1/4

INDUSTRIALS

Central 20 1/2 20 1/2 500 @ 20 1/2

XALL 250 @ 28 1/2

Rope 17.70

Stores, ETC. 22.30

Dairy (N) 20.70

L. Crawford 25

OPTIONALS

Textile Corp 6.10

MISCELLANEOUS

Y. Line 4.80 1000 @ 4.80

Allied 4.80

U.S. RAW COTTON EXPORTS

New York, Mar. 27.

Raw cotton exports by destination as reported in sales by the New York Cotton Exchange for the 1954-55 season to Mar. 22 were as follows:—

Britain 272,518

Continent 1,353,512

Orizaba 836,000

Canada 191,200

Total for season 2,753,230

Since period last year 2,222,724

% including United States 100

US TUNG OIL IMPORTS

Washington, Mar. 27.

Tung oil imports into the United States in 1954 increased to 13,239 short tons, the largest quantity purchased since 1950, the last year of large imports from China, the Agriculture Department reported today.—United Press.

AUSTRALIA AND US TO PROMOTE JOINT VENTURES

The United States and Australia have entered a new agreement to promote joint business ventures, it was announced here today.

The Foreign Operations Administration (FOA) announced extension of its contact clearing house service to Australia. This FOA service encourages the flow of American capital abroad by gathering and disseminating investment proposals.

"Once the contact (between United States and foreign businessmen) has been established FOA withdraws," the announcement said.

"It makes no investigation into the affairs of private businessmen, nor does it intervene in negotiations between them."

CO-OPERATION
In co-operation with the Australian Government and United States diplomatic and consular offices, the FOA has enlisted the aid of chambers of commerce in six Australian states to serve as volunteer field counsellors.

The FOA said: "Australia's economy is developing over a wide range of industries in keeping with her rapidly increasing population and her status as an important new continent."

The Australian Government also planned a special exhibit entitled "US capital participation in Australia" which opened at Rockefeller Centre, New York, on March 25. Some 22 US corporations with investments in Australia participated.—United Press.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

P.O. Box 53 Queen's Building Tel: 26651

FAST PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

"CAMBODGE" sailing Apr. 9th

"MEINAM" sailing May 20th

FAST FREIGHT SERVICE

"CAMBODGE" sailing Apr. 21st

No Increase In Cotton Acreage

Washington, Mar. 27.

The Senate reversed itself last Saturday and killed a bill to increase cotton acreage after grain state Senators added a provision that also would have raised wheat acreage allotments.

In its final form the bill would have increased cotton and wheat acreage by 1 1/4 per cent of the 1955 acreage allotment for each producing state.

It rejected the whole bill.

Defeat of the bill all but ended hopes of cotton state Senators to get increased acreage for smaller allotments.

Backers of the measure doubted that any other legislation could be adopted in time to affect this year's spring planting.—United Press.

France Will Tell OEEC

Paris, Mar. 27.

France is to take the official step of notifying OEEC on April 1, of the raising of her import liberalisation to 75 per cent from 65 per cent, the French Finance Ministry announced.

The 75 per cent rate was unofficially instituted last January by the addition of 300 items to the liberalisation list. The new list was not submitted to the OEEC at that time.

It is believed the official list may include some alterations to the tentative January schedule and will not include textiles.—China Mail Special.

Pan American Middle East Air Holding

Washington, Mar. 27.

Pan American World Airways announced that it has relinquished its 36 per cent interest in Middle East Airlines to Saeb Bey Salameh of the Lebanon.

It said that Saeb Bey Salameh is the principal stockholder of Middle East Airlines, as well as its President. Officials of the line said that their relations with Middle East Line will continue as before.—United Press.

Uncertainty Kept London Markets In Cautious Mood

From Our Own Correspondent

London, Mar. 28.

The London Stock Exchange was in another of its cautious moods last week.

Nothing actually happened that could be said to have put prices either up or down; but certain things that might happen kept the main body of investors out of the markets. And with activity down to a minimum price movements in each direction tended to be exaggerated.

Reports that Sir Winston Churchill will shortly hand over the Premiership to Sir Anthony Eden have not been denied and chances of an early election are now rated high. With the Labour Party split from top to bottom on the Ewan issue few people still seriously believe in the possibility of a Socialist victory, but investors must take even the most unlikely contingency into consideration.

Of more immediate importance to the market was the announcement that Australia was to cut her imports and the growing pessimism about Budget prospects.

MAY TRIM EXPORTS
The Australian import cuts may trim British exports to this important market by as much as 30 or 40 million pounds, and the bulk of this loss will fall on the textile and motor industries. Shares in both these sections were marked down on the news, but motor shares improved later in the belief that the industry would be able to offset the loss by raising exports to other markets.

Textiles are not so happily placed, however. The industry is suffering from shrinking export markets on the one hand and increasing competition from imported cloth on the other. Australian cuts are a further severe blow and will no doubt hasten Government action to prevent depression in the industry.

BUDGET INFLUENCE
The Budget, now only three weeks away, has, of course, a major influence on the market. Its outcome is more uncertain than ever this year. The optimists who are hoping for tax reductions argue that as it will probably be the last Budget before a general election it will be a "popular" one.

This theory is bolstered by the fact that the present financial year will end this week showing a large surplus of revenue over expenditure with a still larger surplus in prospect for next year even if taxation is left unchanged.

But few investors are prepared to back this theory with money. The various disinflationary medicine's administered by the Chancellor a few weeks ago have only just begun to do their work and there is now a growing fear that their effect will be cancelled by additional spending power generated by recent large wage awards. In any case it is unlikely that the Chancellor would risk undermining his present policy by introducing an inflationary Budget.

These various cases of uncertainty all played their part in the fall of prices in both the stock and industrial markets in the first half of last week. The Financial Times industrial share index dropped 5.7 to 177.4 in the first two days and sharp losses were recorded among Government stocks with War Loan 3 1/2 per cent down 30s.

BEAR COVERING
Bear covering helped the subsequent rally. Prices finished above the week's worst, but most stocks and shares lost ground on balance. War Loan 3 1/2 per cent was 1s 6d lower at £85 and losses among industrials ranged to about one shilling. Oils followed the trend of the industrial share market and prices ended generally lower with British Petrol down 2s 8d to 72s and Shell 15 6d to 127s 6d.

Coppers were firm on the higher metal price which received a further boost on Friday on news of the strike in Chile. Nkana was 18s 3d better at £13 2s 6d and Rhodesian Anglo-American were up 4s to 98s.

South African gold shares rallied after midweek helped by the good Anglo-American dividend and profits, but turned easier on Friday following the South African Budget.

EVERETT LINES

EVERETT ORIENT LINE

Fast regular freight — refrigerator — passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Rangoon, Calcutta and Chittagong.

"LENEVERETT"

Arrives Mar. 28 from Singapore.
Sails Mar. 29 for Kobe & Yokohama.

"BRADEVERETT"

Arrives Apr. 3 from Manila.
Sails Apr. 4 for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, Chittagong & Calcutta.

(Accepting cargo for transhipment Kobe/Fusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STAR LINE

Fast regular freight — refrigerator service to Japan, Malaya, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf.

(Subject to inducement for direct call Korea)

"THAI"

Arrives Apr. 16 from Singapore.
Sails Apr. 16 for Kobe & Yokohama.

"STAR ARCTURUS"

Arrives Apr. 18 from Japan.
Sails Apr. 19 for Singapore, Port Swettenham, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Khorramshahr, Basrah, Kuwait & Bahrain.

(LIMITED PASSENGER ACCOMMODATION)
(Accepting cargo for transhipment Kobe/Fusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STEAMSHIP CORPORATION S/A

(Incorporated in the Republic of Panama with Limited Liability)

Chinese Department: Telephone 28293.
Queen's Building, Telephone 31206.

to 1813 under A-poo-tas and Chung-yik, the rufians mounted, according to the journals of Glasscock and Turner, who were prisoners with them for several months, to upwards of 10,000; and when A-poo-tas was rendered to the authorities, he said so with 16,000 followers. A full account of this particular band is given in the Repository.